

THE CLASSES THROUGH THE AGES







**ARABELA
CHILWANE**

2025 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENNAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**ADRIAN
MCINTOSH**

2025 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENNAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**NOSIPHO
GUMEDE**

2025 FIRSTRAND
EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP



**ZOLANI
METU**

2025 FIRSTRAND
EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP



**IBRAHIM
SUDER**

2025 FIRSTRAND
EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP



**JAMES
RUMSEY**

2025 FIRSTRAND
EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP



**ALEXANDRIA
PROCTER**

2025 FIRSTRAND
OXFORD SMITH SCHOOL
SCHOLARSHIP



**KABELO
MBUYISA**

2025 FIRSTRAND
OXFORD AFRICAN STUDIES
SCHOLARSHIP



**SKYE
HASSERIIS**

2025 FIRSTRAND
IHE DELFT WATER
EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP



ARABELA CHILWANE

2025 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

MSc Development Management,
London School of Economics

arabela.chilwane@gmail.com

Arabela Chilwane matriculated from the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls in 2017, achieving distinctions in all seven subjects. This opportunity was life-changing and unlocked new possibilities through access to quality education.

She pursued a BSc in Chemical Engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand, graduating in 2022. She then joined Bain & Company, where she worked as a consultant, a role that allowed her to apply and refine her engineering skills while gaining valuable insights into business problem-solving strategies.

During her three years in consulting, Arabella identified significant skills and knowledge gaps between her engineering education and her career aspirations. This motivated her to further her studies. She believes the depth and focus of the MSc in Development Management at the London School of Economics will bridge this gap.

Arabela has always been driven by a commitment to poverty alleviation and to creating equitable opportunities. Through her work, she has observed the gap between planning and strategy on the one hand, and effective implementation on the other. She hopes that the MSc in Development Management will strengthen her ability to manage and implement solutions, and to close the gap between policy and action - skills she believes are vital for South Africa.

On her return, Arabella intends to structure her career around three key pillars: development consulting, democratising access to resources for the most disadvantaged, and policymaking.



ADRIAN MCINTOSH

2025 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

MSc Engineering by Research,
University of Oxford

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Adrian McIntosh matriculated at Crawford International La Lucia with eight distinctions, all above 90%. He obtained his BSc(Eng) in Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Cape Town in 2024 with a first-class honours and distinction for his thesis. He transferred from the University of Pretoria after his first year, where he had been awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Merit Award.

Professor Simon Winberg of UCT noted: "His grades, unparalleled in my experience, place him in the top echelon of students I have encountered during my tenure at UCT."

While at UCT, Adrian and his team - with funding from the Allan Gray Orbis Foundation - developed Bursary Buffet, a professional web application designed to help high school and university students find bursaries in one place, reducing the time and challenges typically involved in the process.

As a part of his degree studies, Adrian spent a semester at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he participated in the IDEA Hacks 2024 hackathon. His team built a sensor to help people with visual impairments detect objects as they walked, earning first place in the competition. He is currently in partnership with BlindSA to make the technology available in South Africa.

Adrian was also a member of a UCT jazz ensemble playing the guitar, saxophone and piano. While studying he worked part-time at a software development company to supplement his bursary from the South African Reserve Bank.

He now hopes to join the MultiMeDIA Lab at Oxford University, where he aims to refine his expertise in computer vision, machine learning and interdisciplinary engineering, equipping him to drive technological innovation in resource-limited settings.



NOSIPHO GUMEDE

2025 FIRSTRAND EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

PHD in Design,
University of the Arts in London

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Nosipho Gumedé matriculated from Mariannridge Secondary School, after which she obtained a BSc in Metallurgy and Materials Engineering in 2014, and an MSc in Industrial Engineering in 2020, both from the University of Witwatersrand. For her master's research she designed a university programme to guide improvements in local service delivery which she presented to provincial and municipal leaders to guide the improvement of service delivery in local communities. This work earned her the Prof Paul Kruger Award for Excellence in Teaching & Learning by the Southern African Institute for Industrial Engineering.

In 2019, Nosipho founded WAME Consulting, a collective of independent professionals who provided advisory services to various organisations. She is also a postgraduate curriculum designer in engineering sustainability at North-West University, where she contributes to design and project management activities aimed at establishing new postgraduate qualifications in engineering.

Nosipho has applied to pursue a PhD in Design at the University of Arts London. Her proposed research project will examine the socio-technical tension in engineering design practices within the context of sustainable transitions in both the United Kingdom and South Africa, with the aim of helping engineering educators develop context-appropriate teaching and learning interventions to better prepare students for the varied environments in which engineers work. Her goal is to design educational and professional interventions that contribute to repositioning the South African engineering profession to advance sustainable transitions.



ZOLANI METU

2025 FIRSTRAND EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

MSc Evidence-Based Social Intervention
and Policy Evaluation,
University of Oxford

zolanimetu@gmail.com

Zolani Metu matriculated from Sinethemba Senior Secondary School before obtaining a Bachelor of Social Work in 2015 and a Master of Social Science in 2018, both from the University of Cape Town.

He has presented at several of international conferences and is employed as Head of Programmes at Funda Wandu, a Cape Town-based organisation addressing South Africa's literacy and numeracy crises by developing and distributing learning and teaching material, and empowering educators through training and support.

Zolani has received significant recognition for his work, including being named a Mail & Guardian Top 200 Young South African for 2021, one of the Global Citizen Top nine African Activists in 2022 and the News24 Young Mandela in the mental health category in 2024.

He plans to pursue an MSc in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation at the University of Oxford. His proposed research will explore the relationship between social origins and learning outcomes for foundational literacy and numeracy in South African schools; to investigate the role of teacher assistants in improving teacher instructional practice and learning outcomes in Limpopo and the Eastern Cape; examine teachers' experiences in implementing the Screening, Identification, Assessment and Support (SIAS) policy in the foundation phase in South Africa.

This programme will equip Zolani to pioneer interventions that address the challenges learner literacy and numeracy and, in doing so, translate of educational policy into a lived reality for children.





IBRAHIM SUDER

2025 FIRSTRAND EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

MPhil in Machine Learning and Machine
Intelligence,
University of Cambridge

misuder99@gmail.com

Ibrahim Suder matriculated at the Johannesburg Muslim School. He went on to complete a BSc in Computer Science and an Honours degree cum laude at the University of the Witwatersrand, where he developed a strong interest in the role of artificial intelligence and technology in addressing social challenges. He was awarded numerous academic prizes, including a place on the Dean's List and a scholarship from the South African Reserve Bank.

Alongside his academic achievements, Ibrahim began tutoring fellow students, deepening his belief in the power of mentorship and collaborative learning. His growing awareness of the gaps in South Africa's AI research ecosystem led him to pursue an MSc in Computer Science at Wits University's RAIL (Robotics, Autonomous Intelligence and Learning) Lab and concentrate his efforts on a long-term career in AI research.

His work focuses on AI for social good and on tackling uniquely African challenges, including using robots to map the Sterkfontein Caves and developing medical AI solutions. He was selected for a prestigious research internship at a joint Harvard–EPFL (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne) lab working on global health and humanitarian challenges. He also co-founded AI Safety Wits to address issues of AI safety and moral alignment in local contexts. In 2024, he was involved in Africa's first IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA) satellite event and presented his research there, further strengthening his commitment to advancing innovation and research capacity across the continent.

Ibrahim was accepted to the MPhil in Machine Learning and Machine Intelligence at the University of Cambridge, with a specialisation in computer vision and robotics. Looking ahead, he aims to establish a robotics and AI research hub in South Africa, developing talent, advancing ethical and contextually relevant AI applications, and helping transform the continent's role in global tech.



JAMES RUMSEY

2025 FIRSTRAND EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

MSc Sustainability, Enterprise and the
Environment
University of Oxford

j.rumsey@icloud.com

James Rumsey matriculated from St John's College with a passion for finance and dedication to building sustainable economic infrastructure across Africa. A dux scholar and top graduate from the University of Cape Town, James completed his BCom Economics and Finance coupled with an Honours in Finance cum laude, earning multiple academic awards and leading UCT's CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst) Research Challenge team to win the Southern Africa championship and represent the continent globally.

As a portfolio manager, James successfully raised and managed a million Rand equity fund, refining his expertise in capital allocation, risk and investment performance, outperforming market benchmarks through targeted, high-conviction strategies across diverse sectors.

James' investment expertise is underpinned by rigorous professional experiences. At Bank of America's investment banking division, he contributed to major African M&A (Merger and Acquisitions) and debt transactions across energy, retail, and telecoms, building financial models, conducting macroeconomic analysis, and supporting senior bankers on live M&A deals. His analytical foundation was further strengthened through internships in asset management, banking, and consulting, where he developed valuation models, quantitative performance analyses, and AI-driven operational proposals.

Beyond finance, James has demonstrated a strong commitment to social impact and community building. As a business consultant for Phaphama SEDl, he helped an entrepreneur in Khayelitsha stabilise cash flows and scale operations, leading to an award-winning pitch and improved profitability. He also led a revitalisation strategy for the Muizenberg Improvement District, securing city approval and advancing sustainable local development. Moreover, as a former under 23 South African national rowing squad coxswain, James brings a deep appreciation for teamwork, resilience, and high-performance leadership.

He is currently pursuing a MSc in Sustainability, Enterprise and the Environment at the University of Oxford, where he aims to integrate capital markets expertise with sustainable development strategies. His long-term vision is to establish and lead an African infrastructure investment fund, channeling transformative capital into energy, transport, and digital projects to enhance economic sovereignty and long-term growth across the continent.

Combining top-tier academic excellence, hands-on investment experience, and a bold vision for Africa's future, James is positioned to drive meaningful, scalable impact "at the intersection of finance and development."





ALEXANDRIA PROCTER

2025 OXFORD SMITH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

MSc Sustainability, Enterprise and the
Environment,
University of Oxford

asprocter@gmail.com

Alexandria Syrah Procter matriculated from the Diocesan School for Girls in 2010. She obtained a BSc, majoring in applied biology and philosophy, from the University of Cape Town. She has shown leadership abilities through various initiatives and community engagements, especially in response to the #FeesMustFall protests. Alexandria officially launched DigsConnect.com in 2018. It has become the largest student accommodation marketplace in Africa, boasting over 1.3 million student beds across 400 cities worldwide.

Her leadership extended to a national level when President Cyril Ramaphosa appointed her to the Board of Directors of the National Youth Development Agency. Through this platform, she spearheaded initiatives that registered 1.6 million new young voters for the 2024 elections. In February 2024, she published her first book, which provides an account of her life.

Alexandria aspires to deepen her insights through the MSc in Sustainability, Enterprise and the Environment at Oxford University. She believes this path aligns with her passion for enterprise and governance.



KABELO MBUYISA

2025 OXFORD AFRICAN STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in African Studies,
University of Oxford

petermbuyisa3@gmail.com

Kabelo Mbuyisa matriculated at Thathulwazi West Rand High School in 2020 with three distinctions. He went on to complete his BEd in Senior Phase and Further Education and Training at the University of the Witwatersrand with three majors, cum laude, in 2023. In 2024 he completed his Bachelor of Education Honours, also at Wits, with distinction. During his time at Wits he received numerous academic awards and scholarships. He also obtained a distinction for his contentious Honours research project, entitled "A critical Analysis of Decolonising discourses in Science Curriculum in South Africa."

Kabelo has many areas of interest, including the exploration of the intersection of geopolitics, education and development in resource-rich African nations, and understanding how geopolitical dynamics and natural resource management affect education and economic development, particularly in South Africa.

His long-term goal is to become a leading expert in education law and policy, curriculum studies and African philosophy. He plans to complete a DPhil at Oxford University, pursue an LLB, expand his Non-Profit Organisation (PSI), and establish specialised schools to reform and modernise education in South Africa to equip students to participate in the fourth and fifth industrial revolutions.



SKYE HASSERIIS

2025 IHE DELFT SCHOLARSHIP

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

skyehasseriis@gmail.com

Skye Hasseriis is a passionate and driven Earth and Environmental Scientist who matriculated from Howick High School in 2018. She went on to complete a BSc in Earth Science (specialising in Geo-Environmental Science) and a BSc Honours in Geochemistry at Stellenbosch University in 2023 and 2024, respectively. While at university, she actively contributed to academic and student life, serving first as Vice-Chair and then Chair of the Earth Science Society, as well as acting as a student representative and Science Ambassador. She also represented the student voice for GSSA (Geological Society of South Africa).

Skye has been offered a place in the Master's programme in Water and Sustainable Development at the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education in the Netherlands—an opportunity that aligns perfectly with her long-standing commitment to helping solve Africa's water challenges in the face of climate change.

Her research interests lie in water resource development and disaster mitigation, with a vision to reduce the vulnerability of communities lacking access to safe water and sustainable infrastructure. The implementation of her adaptation strategies to rural and urban areas will be the primary focus of her company on her return to South Africa. IHE Delft offers an educational experience that will equip her with cutting-edge knowledge and skills to make real change in South Africa.

Skye believes that, beyond academics, it's a chance to connect with a global community of changemakers. She believes the international exposure will broaden her perspective, sharpen her adaptability, and deepen her understanding of real-world solutions for South Africa's complex environmental challenges.

Knowledge is power; Information
is liberating. Education is the
premise of progress in every
society, in every family.

- Kofi Annan



**JOHAN
KOEN**

2024 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**ZIDAAN
HABIB**

2024 FIRSTRAND
EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP



**YUSUF
THOMAS**

2024 FIRSTRAND
EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP



**LINDOKHULE
HADEBE**

2024 FIRSTRAND
EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP



**SACHINI
NAIDOO**

2024 FIRSTRAND
EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP



**ZAMAFUZE
NGCOBO**

2024 FIRSTRAND
IHE DELFT WATER EDUCATION
SCHOLARSHIP



JOHAN KOEN

2024 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

Clinical Fellowship in Audit Cardiovascular
Surgery,
University of Toronto

jgkoen@gmail.com

Johan Koen matriculated at Rondebosch Boys' High School in 2008, after which he went on to study medicine at Stellenbosch University, obtaining his MBChB in 2014.

Thanks to his academic performance, Johan was allowed to simultaneously pursue his Master's in Clinical Epidemiology and the Master of Medicine in Cardiothoracic Surgery at Stellenbosch University. He was awarded the Libero Fatti Medal for excellence by obtaining the College of Medicine of South Africa's Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship examination, cum laude. The medal has only been awarded six times since its inception in 1992. Johan was also the first person in more than twenty years to obtain the Master of Cardiothoracic Surgery from Stellenbosch University with a distinction.

He has a passion for education and research. He has frequently been invited as an Advanced Trauma Life Support instructor, and as a manuscript reviewer for the African Journal of Emergency Medicine. He is also a member of the Cape Town Heart Transplant team based at Christian Barnard Memorial Hospital and has been on numerous local donor retrieval missions for the team.

Johan completed a Clinical fellowship in Advanced Cardiovascular and Transplant Surgery in Toronto in 2025. He has taken up a position as an associate Cardiothoracic and Transplant Surgeon with the Cape Town Heart and Lung Transplant Programme based at Christiaan Barnard Memorial hospital. He will commence with his PhD in 2026.

The network he has established between the public and private sectors will ensure that he has a team that can successfully carry out heart failure and valve repair surgery in South Africa on his return. His commitment to the public health sector makes this opportunity an excellent investment for the country. It is not one that is not guaranteed to be offered to another South African in the next few years, but one that will shape the future of heart valve repair surgery in the country.



YUSUF THOMAS

2024 FIRSTRAND EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

MA Creative and Cultural
Entrepreneurship,
Goldsmiths University of London

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Updated 2024

Yusuf matriculated from the National School of the Arts In 2013, graduating with full colours for Dance Studies and Dance Performances.

He went on to obtain a BTech degree in Dance from the Tshwane University of Technology, cum laude. He received numerous awards, including Best Tap Dancer, Best Overall Dancer, Best Choreographer, and Best Dance Techniques and Forms.

Yusuf possesses extensive experience in the performing arts sector having served as an administration intern, director, performer, choreographer and a creative consultant. His passion for arts education as a transformative tool saw him co-develop a functional dance studies curriculum for Evolve schools. Driven by the desire to contribute to youth development and the sustainability of the arts in South Africa, he also took up a part-time dance educator post at The National School of the Arts where he worked as the department's national and international tour coordinator.

Thabiso Qwabe, a senior producer at the South African State Theatre, describes Yusuf as follows: "As a choreographer, producer and dancer Mr Thomas has produced work which speaks to society's concerns and challenges, and engages audiences through his theatre productions. He was appointed as a mentor for a community arts programme and presented a choreographic workshop in Kimberley for developing dancers in 2019."

Yusuf has been accepted to study an MA in Creative and Cultural Entrepreneurship specialising in Theatre and Performance at Goldsmiths University of London. On returning to South Africa, Yusuf plans to launch a reflexive company that will actively contribute to the growth, development, sustainability and evolution of the arts. Furthermore, he seeks to publish academic research to identify weaknesses in business and arts funding in Africa while providing systematic strategies and methods to address socio-economic challenges.



LINDOKUHLE HADEBE

2024 FIRSTRAND EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

LLM,
The London School of Economics
and Political Science (LSE)

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Lindokuhle holds an LLB and an LLM specialising in Constitutional and Administrative Law from the University of Cape Town (UCT), where he graduated as the top student in the programme and with a distinction for his dissertation.

Lindokuhle is a public and human rights lawyer. He has just completed the requirements for an LLM specialising in Human Rights Law at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Lindokuhle previously worked at the University of Johannesburg's South African Institute for Advanced Constitutional, Public, Human Rights and International Law (SAIFAC). He has further worked as a candidate attorney at a leading law firm and clerked at the Constitutional Court under Chief Justice Raymond Zondo. His experience in these roles has greatly enriched his understanding of the complexities and nuances of the legal system.

He is passionate about constitutionalism, human rights, good governance and anti-corruption. During his time at UCT, Lindokuhle served as the co-founder and vice-secretary of Progress SA, where he coordinated nationwide campaigns on issues affecting academic freedom and freedom of expression. He was also involved in voluntary work, such as working as a teaching fellow at the Constitutional Literacy and Service Initiative (CLASI), where he educated high school students on basic constitutional law.

Lindokuhle is passionate about mentorship and the empowerment of young people through education and has served as a mentor in numerous capacities both in his professional and academic journey. He currently serves as a mentor for an organisation that assists underrepresented and underprivileged students in securing admission to leading institutions in the UK. His work in the mentorship space has been recognised by Global Changemakers, an international youth organisation and global pioneer in supporting youth-led sustainable development. He was selected to attend the Global Changemakers x ATKV Global Youth Summit held in Cape Town, in October 2025, as a Global Changemaker for 2025. Lindokuhle intends to return to South Africa to train as an Advocate, and intends to establish a practice focussing on public and human rights law.





SACHIN NAIDOO

2024 FIRSTRAND EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Artificial Intelligence for
Biomedicine and Healthcare, University
College London

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Updated 2024

Sachin matriculated at Crawford International North Coast College in 2017, where he received numerous accolades for exceptional academic performance.

He obtained his four-year BBusSc in Actuarial Science from the University of Cape Town in 2022, with distinction. During his studies, he tutored several courses for the department. For the past ten years, Sachin has also served as a dedicated member of the Dolphin Coast Hospice, an organisation providing palliative care to patients from underprivileged areas.

Sachin was recruited to Discovery on the Adrian Gore Fellowship programme, which attracts South Africa's top actuarial students. Through this opportunity he accumulated the work experience required for registration as an actuary in South Africa, and has successfully completed all his actuarial board exams.

Despite his primary qualification in actuarial science, Sachin has observed the rapid changes in multiple sectors with the increased adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) and believes in its potential to shape the world over the coming decades. He believes and stresses that South Africa should not be left behind while leading economies invest heavily in the field.

He plans to pursue an MSc in Artificial Intelligence for Biomedicine and Healthcare at University College London. On his return, Sachin intends to use his actuarial and AI expertise to help South Africa harness emerging technologies to address real-world challenges in healthcare and beyond.



**DANIEL
JOHNSON**

2023 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**AYABULELE
MHLAHLA**

2023 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**JARON
COHEN**

2023 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



**AZMINAH
JHETAM**

2023 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



**MALAIKA
MAHLATSI**

2023 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



**MICAELLA
ROGERS**

2023 FIRSTRAND
OXFORD AFRICAN STUDIES
SCHOLARSHIP



**CINDY
CHERRY**

2023 FIRSTRAND
IHE DELFT WATER
EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP



DANIEL JOHNSON

2023 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

PhD in Astrophysics,
University of Montpellier

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Since January 2024, Daniel has been enrolled as a PhD student at the University of Montpellier in France, where he is researching the use of strong gravitational lensing as a cosmological probe.

This work expands on foundations laid during his Master's, where he developed methods using perturbative distortions to strong lensing images by large scale mass distributions. His research focuses on using these distortions as a means of detecting dark matter, as well as examining their impact on measuring the expansion of the universe.

Daniel has presented this work at conferences in Manchester, Oxford, Montpellier and Italy, and has submitted the first of a series of publications on the subject to the Journal of Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics.

Daniel has been involved in teaching and tutoring for many years, driven by a passion to address South Africa's deep inequalities in access to quality education. He served on the committee of the Golden Future Project for four years, including two as its chairperson, overseeing the growth of a team of several hundred active tutors, supporting learners from more than 50 under-resourced schools in and around Cape Town. He also helped to develop an online programme to ensure tuition continued during the lockdown period.

Daniel hopes to continue leveraging his academic position to 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, or reading a good book.



AYABULELA MHLAHLO

2023 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

PhD in Philosophy,
University of Connecticut

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Ayabulela Mhlahlo holds a Master of Arts in African literature (with distinction) from the University of the Witwatersrand, obtained in 2021. In 2023, she earned a second Master of Arts in politics from the University of Cape Town. She is expected to complete a third Master of Arts in philosophy at the University of Connecticut in late 2025 and is currently in her third year of doctoral studies in the university's Department of Philosophy.

She also holds a BA in African literature and philosophy (2018), as well as a BA Honours (with distinction) in African literature (2019), both from the University of the Witwatersrand. She has received numerous merit and honours awards, scholarships and fellowships from the University of the Witwatersrand, the University of Cape Town and the University of Connecticut.

At the University of Connecticut, Ayabulela has received two departmental fellowships and was elected vice-president of the Philosophy Graduate Student Association for 2024–2025. She will also serve as lead coordinator of the Society of Women in Philosophy (SWIP) in 2025–2026.

She has presented her research at leading institutions including Yale, Princeton, Stony Brook, Saint John's and Southwestern universities, as well as the universities of Pretoria and KwaZulu-Natal. She has also participated in the Caribbean Philosophical Association Summer School and the Critical Theory Workshop in Paris.

Beyond academia, she serves on the Board of Advisers of the BlackHouse Collective in Soweto, is a member of the Sustainability Committee at the Mayoral Office of Mansfield Town and edits the Black Intellectual Praxes blog, which mentors young black scholars in South Africa.

Ayabulela hopes to root her academic career as a South Africanist to uncover the transformative potential of indigenous, imaginative and mythic thought. She hopes to establish African-based think-tanks and knowledge institutions to centre the potential of African produced knowledge systems in solving social problems at a global scale.



JARON COHEN

2023 FIRSTRAND FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Advanced Computer Science,
University of Oxford

jdicohen@gmail.com

Updated 2024

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 has gained hands-on industry experience, including working as a Software Engineer Intern at Aerobotics and, more recently, completing a six-month research internship at InstaDeep, where he explored ideas in the field of meta-reinforcement learning.

Aron was awarded a FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar Scholarship to pursue an MSc in Advanced Computer Science at the University of Oxford, where he hopes to continue his research journey. He sees this as an invaluable step towards achieving his long-term goal of contributing to the development of aligned artificial general intelligence systems capable of providing creative and unique solutions to the complex challenges humanity faces today.



AZMINAH JHETAM

2023 FIRSTRAND FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Bachelor of Civil Law,
University of Oxford

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Updated 2024

Azminah is concerned with 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 academic and professional endeavours. Azminah completed BA and LLB degrees at the University of the Witwatersrand.

As an undergraduate student, Azminah interned with NGOs and law firms on issues including constitutional history, land rights, and Muslim personal law. She then began her legal training at a Johannesburg law firm, where she gained experience in public law, regulatory law, and general commercial litigation. She worked on several pro bono matters relating to migrants' rights and inmates' rights. Azminah paused her articles to serve as a researcher to Justice Leona Theron at the Constitutional Court, where she worked on a diverse range of matters.

Azminah has just completed the BCL at the University of Oxford, where she studied legal philosophy, legal history, international human rights law, and equality law. She is currently working on business and human rights issues at a London-based NGO as a Bonavero Fellow before she returns to Johannesburg to complete her training as an attorney.





MALAIKA MAHLATSI

2023 FIRSTRAND FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

PhD in Geography,
University of Bayreuth, Germany

malaikawaazania@gmail.com

Malaika, a lifetime member of the Golden Key International Honour Society, holds a Master of Urban and Regional Planning, cum laude, from the University of Johannesburg; a Master of Public Affairs in Food Security Studies from the Tshwane University of Technology; and an MSc Water Resource Science from the Institute for Water Research at Rhodes University. She recently completed the Master's short-course in Innovation for Sustainability with Tampere University in Finland and the Introduction to Global Health with Stellenbosch University.

A dedicated civil servant, Malaika has worked in various tiers of the South African government – as a cabinet assistant and researcher in the national government (in the Ministry of Communications and the Ministry of Science and Technology, respectively) and as a senior specialist researcher in local government, at the City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality. She is currently the Head of Research in the Gauteng Provincial Treasury in the Office of the Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Finance and Economic Development. Malaika has served on various boards and committees including the SADC Food and Nutrition Security Committee and the Unilever Hair Advisory Board. She was previously the Secretary General of the African Youth Coalition, established by the Thabo Mbeki Foundation, and is the current board secretary of the MM Foundation for Education.

Malaika is a researcher at Rhodes University and a research fellow at the Institute for Pan African Thought and Conversation at the University of Johannesburg. The award-winning and bestselling author of *Memoirs of a Born Free: Reflections on the Rainbow Nation*, *Corridors of Death: The Struggle to Exist in Historically White Institutions* and *Why We Vote for the ANC: Conversations With Young ANC Voters*, she has published in various local and international academic journals and writes weekly columns in the *Sowetan* and *The Herald* newspapers, as well as *Primedia's EWN* digital publication. She is a contributing writer for the *WOZ* in Switzerland and *Kulturaustausch* in Germany.

Malaika is pursuing a PhD in Geography at the University of Bayreuth in Germany, where her research focuses on gendered geographies of gentrification in African cities. She is a junior fellow at the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies.



MICAELLA ROGERS

2023 FIRSTRAND OXFORD AFRICAN STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in African Studies,
University of Oxford

micaella.rogers@gmail.com

Micaella Rogers is the co-founder and co-executive director of the Lead-Acid Battery Recycling Initiative (LABRI), a policy advocacy NGO working to reduce lead exposure from unsafe lead-acid battery recycling in low- and middle-income countries. Lead is a highly toxic metal that damages nearly every organ in the body, and even trace amounts can impair heart, kidney, and brain development. Recent research suggests lead exposure may account for over 20% of the learning gap between low- and high-income countries and contribute to over 1.5 million deaths each year.

Micaella co-founded LABRI in April 2025 through Ambitious Impact's Charity Entrepreneurship Incubation Programme in London, which supports the launch of high-impact, evidence-based charities addressing neglected global challenges. She previously worked on the research team at the same organisation and as an economic and public policy consultant at Genesis Analytics in Johannesburg.

As a FirstRand Foundation scholar, Micaella earned a Master's degree with distinction from the University of Oxford, where she researched the social and economic impacts of renewable energy projects in South Africa. Her chapter on the role of community liaison officers as brokers of development is currently under review for publication. Micaella holds an honours degree in Economics and a bachelor's degree in Economics, Statistics, and Psychology from the University of Cape Town, both awarded with distinction. She is a former Mandela Rhodes and Klaus-Jurgen Bathe Leadership scholar.

Micaella is driven by the belief that rigorous evidence can be transformed into practical solutions that empower and improve the lives of people in the world's most underserved communities.





CINDY CHERRY

2023 FIRSTRAND IHE DELFT WATER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

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

cindyecherry@gmail.com

Updated 2024

Cindy holds a BSc in Civil Engineering from the University of Cape Town, which she achieved with Honours in 2020. Following her graduation, Cindy worked as a civil engineer in the Water Resources Management department at Zutari, an African-based engineering consulting firm. Her work included catchment and water resources yield/system modelling, flood risk assessments, spatial data analysis, and participating in regional water reconciliation strategy studies. Her interest in agriculture was sparked during her BSc, when she founded the ISONdlo food garden initiative to address urban food insecurity in Cape Town.

In 2022, Cindy participated in the Stockholm International Water Institute's World Water Week as a Young Scientific Programme Committee member, where she helped develop the seminar "Achieving Food and Nutrition Targets by 2030 through Water Security." These experiences motivated her to pursue a career in land and water management, with a specific goal of contributing to water and food security in South Africa.

Cindy's current research at IHE focuses on using remote sensing to analyse agricultural water management and distributive justice during extreme climate and weather events. She has collaborated with two ongoing research projects at IHE for her thesis development: FAO WaPOR and EPIC (Equity Perspectives for Irrigation Care or Control). These collaborations have allowed her to extend her studies to a two-year Research MSc, providing an extended period for in-depth research.

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character; that is the goal of true education.

- Martin Luther King Jr.



**SIYASANGA
CHARLES**

2022 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**PALESA
PHALAFALA**

2022 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**TSHEPHISO
SOMO**

2022 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



**MICHAEL
BURKE**

2022 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



**ZAPHESHEYA
DLAMINI**

2022 FIRSTRAND
OXFORD AFRICAN STUDIES
SCHOLARSHIP



**INGRID
PIENAAR**

2022 FIRSTRAND
FUND OXFORD EDUCATION
SCHOLARSHIP



**CHRISTINE
STRAUSS**

2022 FIRSTRAND FNB FUND
SCHOLARSHIP FOR INTERNATIONAL
POSTGRADUATE STUDY
IN EDUCATION



SIYASANGA CHARLES

2022 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

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

maestra.charles@gmail.com

On 24 May 2024, Siya graduated magna cum laude from The Juilliard School with a Master's in Music specialising in Jazz Studies. As part of her Optional Practical Training (OPT) post-graduation, she has toured the United States with the Neil Diamond Broadway musical tour, A Beautiful Noise.

Siya was awarded the Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Jazz 2025, which is arguably the most prestigious jazz award in South Africa. She has participated in the National Youth Jazz Festival as well as the National Arts Festival as a performer, educator and adjudicator of the National Schools' Jazz Band auditions.

In collaboration with Standard Bank Arts, she will launch her album through a national tour as the Standard Bank Young Artist For Jazz 2025, while conducting jazz education workshops in collaboration with the following schools:

IMAD eKhayelitsha (Cape Town),
Outeniqua High School (George),
Nelson Mandela
University and Grey Junior School (Gqeberha) and
Durban High School (Durban).

The album recording and workshop tour is scheduled for April 2026, with Emmy award-winning producer and drummer Jerome Jennings as the producer.

Siyasanga is a product of the invaluable investment of jazz education in South Africa, and feels the responsibility to give back. She provides private mentoring to young female musicians (high school and university-level) who envision a future career in the jazz industry and often supports their crowdfunding initiatives. She is grateful to be able to contribute towards the microcosm of music education in South Africa.



PALESA PHALAFALA

2022 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

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

palesa@phalafala.com

Updated 2023

Palesa holds an MBBCh from the University of the Free State and a Master's 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 this time, she has worked at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital, Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, Helen Joseph Hospital and Leratong Hospital.

She has been involved in teaching plastic surgery-related topics at the University of Witwatersrand and is completing her Master's in Medicine in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Palesa 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, highly regarded globally among aspiring and practising hand reconstruction surgeons, accepts only three fellows each year.

While her current skills enable her to perform plastic and reconstructive surgeries, she feels they are inadequate for the full spectrum of cases she encounters, particularly in hand reconstruction. There is a dire need for reconstruction surgeons, in particular hand reconstruction, at public hospitals in South Africa.

The skills she will gain through this fellowship are not only essential for hand reconstruction but will also be transferable to breast, head, and neck reconstruction surgeries.



TSHEPHISHO SONO

2022 FIRSTRAND FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

MSc International Energy Commerce,
University of Dundee

somotme@gmail.com

Updated 2023

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

She has practised as an admitted attorney at CMS RM Partners and 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 Constitutional Tribunal at the University of Pretoria.

In 2020 Tshephisho registered for a Master's in Extractive Industry Law in Africa at the University of Pretoria. While this degree is relevant to the work she wishes to pursue, it does not address all the knowledge areas required for her future goals.

Her proposed degree will focus on understanding the economics governing the extractives sector and the international environment that influences it in South Africa. The purpose of her studies is to supplement the knowledge she has already gained of Africa's regulatory frameworks and trade policies in the extractives industry. Together, the degrees will equip her to provide energy-related legal advice to medium-sized and large corporations in South Africa, across the continent, and globally.

In addition to her academic goals, Tshephisho is passionate about the development of indigenous languages in South Africa, and she has launched an initiative with her father called Lilimi LaMathipa (named after her late mother) to provide language support to schools in her local community.

Fluent in Afrikaans, English, Sesotho and Mandarin, Tshephisho hopes to learn other South African languages to strengthen her ability to advance the work of Lilimi LaMathipa.



ZAPHESHEYA DLAMINI

2022 FIRSTRAND OXFORD AFRICAN STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in African Studies,
University of Oxford

u15307485@tuks.co.za

Updated 2024

Zaphesheya completed an MSc in African Studies at the University of Oxford and was awarded the African Studies Centre prize. She also holds an 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.

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.

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 her dream of pursuing a career in academia and offer students from all backgrounds an opportunity to learn and collaborate on finding solutions to South Africa's problems.



INGRID PIENAAR

2022 FIRSTRAND FNB FUND OXFORD EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Child Development and Education,
University of Oxford

ingridpienaar11@gmail.com

Updated 2024

Ingrid is a primary school teacher from Cape Town. She graduated with a first-class MSc in Education from Oxford University in 2023, specialising in child development. For her dissertation, she conducted a randomised controlled trial to explore Grade One children's understanding of numbers, a crucial early stumbling block in mathematics education.

Before attending Oxford, Ingrid taught in South Africa and the Middle East, developing an approach to teaching which balances rigorous instruction and a strong, empathetic classroom culture. She had previously studied English Literature at the University of Cape Town (BA Hons with distinction) but had always felt called to teach, volunteering in schools throughout this period.

After completing her masters, Ingrid returned to Cape Town and to the classroom, taking on a new role as leader of mathematics education innovation at Disa Primary School in Imizamo Yethu. There, she coaches teachers one-on-one to strengthen their practice and implements academic improvement projects. In her spare time, Ingrid mentors newly qualified teachers, and tutors recipients of the Students for a Better Future scholarship, preparing them for the challenges of high school.

Her next ventures include implementing "data driven instruction" at Disa Primary and introducing Cape Town's teaching community to the science of learning at UCT's upcoming Winter School. Looking ahead, she is excited to keep learning and share her passion for effective education with a growing circle of teachers and leaders.





CHRISTINE STRAUSS

2022 FIRSTRAND FNB FUND SCHOLARSHIP FOR INTERNATIONAL POSTGRADUATE STUDY IN EDUCATION

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

christinestrauss@gmail.com

Christine is passionate about the interdisciplinary study of law, science, and technology, with a particular focus on current advancements in these fields. The field of science and technology law is dedicated to addressing the ethical, technical, and regulatory challenges that arise with the introduction of emerging technologies in society.

In 2023, Christine earned her Master of Laws (LLM) degree from Stanford University, where she specialised in law, science and technology. During her time at Stanford, she completed a range of courses that explored the impact of emerging technologies and scientific innovations on the legal system, as well as their ethical and social implications for society. Christine was also recognised for her contributions to the Stanford Law School community, receiving the Community Leadership Award for the LLM class of 2023.

After completing her Master of Laws (LLM), Christine returned to Stellenbosch University, where she now lectures in the Mercantile Law Department of the Faculty of Law. In 2025, she co-developed and introduced a new compulsory module, Law & Technology, offered to all final-year LLB students, a first of its kind in South Africa. Concurrently, she is pursuing her Doctor of Laws (LLD) in the field of law, science, and technology. Christine's LLD research examines the legal challenges posed by the use of artificial intelligence in optimising embryo selection during in-vitro fertilization.

Christine holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Life Science (2013), a Bachelor of Science Honours in Human Genetics (2014), and a Bachelor of Laws (three-year postgraduate) (2017) from Stellenbosch University. She completed her articles at Adams & Adams and was admitted as an Attorney of the High Court of South Africa in 2020, and qualified as a Trade Mark Practitioner in 2021 through the South African Institute of Intellectual Property Law (SAIPL).

Education is the most powerful
weapon which you can use to
change the world.

- Nelson Mandela

Class Of

2021





**KHETHINKOSI
(KHETA) DLAMINI**

2021 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**ZAAKIR
ESSA**

2021 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**CHERIESE
DILRAJH**

2021 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



**PHILA
MSIMANG**

2021 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



KHETHINKOSI (KHETHA) DLAMINI

2021 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

Master's in Public Policy,
Harvard Kennedy School

khethad@gmail.com

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 Master's in Public Policy from Harvard Kennedy 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.



ZAAKIR ESSA

2021 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

MPhil in Development Studies,
University of Oxford

zaakiressa01@gmail.com

Updated 2024

After completing an undergraduate degree in Economics and Finance at the University of Cape Town, Zaakir moved 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 Ngileni Village, he was surrounded by people dedicated to building a better future for the region, preserving social cohesion and sustaining vibrant community life – an experience that left him deeply inspired.

In 2021, Zaakir pursued an MPhil in Development Studies at the University of Oxford. This programme equipped him with the tools to unravel the complexities of global inequality: it showed him why politics matters, how historical injustices persist long after liberation, and the risks of seeking overly simple solutions. During his time at Oxford, he undertook fieldwork in Kenya, was elected a Global Leadership Initiative Fellow, and worked as a research assistant at the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative.



CHERIESE DILRAJH

2021 FIRSTRAND FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

MA in Art and Politics,
Goldsmiths, University of London

cheriesedilrajh@gmail.com

Cherie works in investigations at a South African non profit dedicated to uncovering private sector corruption, advocating for transparency in public procurement and infrastructure.

Outside of her work she pursues artistic endeavours, particularly those that are collaborative or experimental. She also maintains a personal fascination with sunsets and architecture.



PHILA MSIMANG

2021 FIRSTRAND FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

PhD in Philosophy,
Macquarie University, Australia

msimangp@sun.ac.za

Updated 2024

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. In recent publications, Phila has argued that understanding what races are has practical importance, particularly in its application to social and scientific contexts.

A practical example, he explains, can be seen in the way social group belonging can function as a social determinant of health. In a recent publication, he called for clearer, less ambiguous use of concepts such as race and ethnicity in clinical settings, giving the significant consequences this can have for health outcomes.

As Phila nears the completion of his PhD, after Phd he continues work on the problems that arise in the use of race and ethnic classifications in social and scientific settings.

He is faculty member at Stellenbosch University where he has recently been promoted to senior lecturer.





**JEREMI
SWANEPOEL**

2020 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**LIAM
SWANSON**

2020 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**FATIMA
DOCRAT**

2020 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



**GUGULETHU
KHUMALO**

2020 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



**CHARL
LINDE**

2020 FIRSTRAND
OXFORD AFRICAN STUDIES
SCHOLARSHIP



**SFISO
NXUMALO**

2020 FIRSTRAND
ASSISTANCE BURSARY



**NONKULULEKO
VILAKAZI**

2020 FIRSTRAND FNB FUND
SCHOLARSHIP FOR INTERNATIONAL
POSTGRADUATE STUDY
IN EDUCATION



**SHIMAL
HARICHURN**

2020 FIRSTRAND
FNB FUND EDUCATION
SCHOLARSHIP



JEREMI SWANEPOEL

2020 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

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

jswanpuddle@gmail.com

Updated 2024

Jeremi is a qualified medical doctor and early career clinician-researcher with a keen interest in pulmonary and infectious disease medicine. Since January 2023, he has been working as a research medical officer at the Centre for Lung Infection and Immunity at the University of Cape Town (UCT) Lung Institute in Cape Town.

The UCT Lung Institute is an internationally recognised research institution with experience in performing high impact clinical trials. In his current role he has ample opportunity to hone his clinician-researcher skills and to conduct both industry-sponsored and grant-funded projects.

The research his team is engaged with is both stimulating and of significant public health importance. Some of his responsibilities include writing research protocols, implementing and conducting clinical studies focused on the prevention, diagnosis, and effective management of pulmonary infections, particularly tuberculosis, which is the number one infectious disease killer globally. He serves as a sub-investigator for three industry-sponsored TB (tuberculosis) vaccine trials and assists with regulatory and safety monitoring requirements.

Jeremi's academic training and research experience has provided him with an excellent background in multiple clinical and biological disciplines including pulmonology, microbiology, and immunology. Additionally, he remains involved with clinical work in the division of pulmonology at Groote Schuur Hospital as a volunteer medical officer to improve his practical skills and to identify meaningful translational research opportunities.

In the coming year, he plans to undertake speciality clinical training in internal medicine and to further his knowledge of pulmonary and infectious disease medicine.



LIAM SWANSON

2020 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

PhD in Cardiovascular Biomedicine,
University College London

swanson.liam@gmail.com

Updated 2024

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 currently pursuing a PhD in Cardiovascular Biomedicine at University College London.

Between completing his MSc and commencing his PhD, Liam focused on extending his master's research to increase its capability with the goal of formalising it as a clinical tool. This role also included a teaching component, where he trained new team members in software methodology.

In parallel, Liam worked as an intern in statistical shape modelling at a German company, gaining valuable experience in the commercial application of the technologies he is studying.



FATIMA DOCRAT

2020 FIRSTRAND FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in International Health Policy,
London School of Economics

fatimadocrat@gmail.com

Updated 2024

Fatima continues to be passionate about global health. After completing her MSc in International Health Policy: Health Economics at the LSE, she joined the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria where she worked in strategy and performance delivery.

She has since joined CEPI (Coalition for Epidemics Preparedness Innovations) as a policy manager. CEPI is an international organisation with a mission to accelerate the development of vaccines and other biologic countermeasures against epidemic and pandemic threats so they can be accessible to all people in need, particularly those in the Global South.



GUGULETHU KHUMALO

2020 FIRSTSTRAND FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

PhD in Plant Biochemistry,
Griffith University

khumalogugulethu59@gmail.com

Gugulethu completed her PhD studies at Griffith University, Australia. In 2023 she was awarded the SWISS Government Excellence Scholarship (Global Competitiveness) and she is currently a post-doctoral research fellow at the University of Zurich in Switzerland.

Her research focuses on the immunomodulatory and analgesic effects of bioactive secondary metabolites from indigenous South African medicinal plants for alternative therapeutics against inflammation and chronic pain with limited toxic side effects. She has published five scientific articles in reputable journals from her PhD research.

In 2025, Gugulethu was awarded the prestigious Newton International Fellowship scholarship from the Royal Society. She is currently a Research Fellow at the William Harvey Research Institute in London. A global leader in inflammation biology research.

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.





CHARL LINDE

2020 FIRSTRAND OXFORD AFRICAN STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP

MSc, African Studies Centre,
University of Oxford

linde.charl@gmail.com

Updated 2024

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, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), and communications at universities across the world.



SFISO NXUMALO

2020 FIRSTRAND ASSISTANCE BURSARY

Bachelor of Civil Laws,
University of Oxford

nsfisobenard@yahoo.com

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 Gifillan), as a candidate attorney for his articles of clerkship following his graduation. During his first year of 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.



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

nonkuvila@gmail.com

Updated 2024

Since returning to South Africa, Nonkululeko has been practicing as a drama and movement psychotherapist in private practice working with children and young persons with a wide range of mental health and socioemotional needs.

Over the last year, she has designed and implemented arts therapy-informed wellness programmes for corporate departments to enhance employee wellbeing and productivity. In addition, she designed a module for executive leaders and managers focused on emotional intelligence, self-mastery, and conflict using a praxis-based approach.

This module, developed for a governance university department for their executive education programmes, leans towards transformational leadership and organisational structure change with input from innovative and creative approaches.

Nonkululeko is currently a Lecturer and MA Year Head at Drama for Life, an Arts Therapy and Applied Theatre department at the University of Witwatersrand. These roles have contributed to her recent presentation at the iMPAC symposium and conference in Zambia with her paper set to be published with The Open Window University Research Institute, in partnership with UNISA Press.

She is a founding member and director of iNYA (iNkululeko Ye Africa) Therapies, a not-for-profit arts psychotherapy and psychoeducation organisation which aims to offer school-based mental health interventions.

iNYA Therapies aims to service schools in socially marginalised communities through in-person mental health interventions, creative mental health teacher training, mental health workbooks and incident response workshops.



SHIMAL HARICHURN

2020 FIRSTRAND FNB FUND EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Mathematics,
University of Bonn

shimal.h.98@gmail.com

Over the past year Shimal has continued to do research on a topic at the intersection of mathematics and physics which was initiated during his MSc in Mathematics at the University of Bonn. He is attempting to publish papers based on this research.

Shimal has been fortunate to travel to multiple international workshops and conferences in mathematics over the past year. These included a workshop at Caltech, the Simons Collaboration on 'New Structures in Low-Dimensional Topology' Annual Meeting in New York and the Summer School/Conference on 'Modern Developments in Low-Dimensional Topology' held in Trieste, Italy at the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics. He later attended a workshop in Taiwan where he discussed ongoing mathematical research.

Shimal completed a second Master's in Computer Science at the University of KwaZulu-Natal over the past year where he achieved Summa Cum Laude honours and received awards for being the top-ranked MSc student in the university.

Lastly, Shimal has been building and working on his school communication APP called Quantakom which is aimed at providing underprivileged schools with free and high-quality communication software.

His plans include continuing mathematical research, publishing papers, expanding Quantakom, and resuming participation in sport.





**JORICH
LOUBSER**

2019 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**LONWABO
MGODUSO**

2019 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**KIRRA
EVANS**

2019 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



**NIKITA
VALA**

2019 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



**TIYANI
MAJOKO**

2019 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



**MICHAEL
KRAMER**

2019 FIRSTRAND FNB
OXFORD EDUCATION
SCHOLARSHIP



**HEATHER
KAYTON**

2019 FIRSTRAND
FNB FUND EDUCATION
SCHOLARSHIP



**IRENE
PAMPALLIS**

2019 FIRSTRAND
FNB FUND EDUCATION
ASSISTANCE BURSARY



JORICH LOUBSER

2019 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

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

J.H.Loubser@lse.ac.ukm

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 London School of Economics (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 worked on research projects at both the LSE and Oxford.

Jorich has returned 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 former supervisor.

His research 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 over the last five decades has largely been due to the the country'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 intends to return to a South African university after completing his studies where he hopes to work at the intersection of academia and policy.



LONWABO MGODUSO

2019 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

MPhil in Engineering for Sustainable
Development,
University of Cambridge

lodusem@gmail.com

Updated 2024

Lonwabo is a mechanical engineer by training, whose interests lie in creating synergies to accelerate low-carbon transitions and in stimulating South Africa's green growth particularly in the energy sector. He is also passionate about the role of entrepreneurship in driving sustainable change for the betterment and benefit of the environment and future generations.

He holds a Master's 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.

Following his studies in 2020, he worked as an energy analyst at Meridian Economics in Cape Town, where he supported the Meridian team, a specialised energy and climate economics and finance consultancy and think-tank. It provided strategic research and systems modelling in the South African power sector to support decision-making processes related to resolving systemic challenges, for both government and private sector players.

His journey has come full circle as he now works with FirstRand Group Treasury in the Structured Finance team, joining at the start of 2024. His work focuses on structuring and supporting various transactions and projects across the group, with particular focus on energy related activities and securitisations. His work involves supporting the Shared Prosperity Enablement activities for the group, which aims to use internal resource capabilities to extend the reach of social transformation and impact for long-term prosperity.



KIRRA EVANS

2019 FIRSTRAND FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

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

kirrae97@gmail.com

Updated 2024

Kirra Evans currently works as an inclusive procurement specialist at Anglo American, specifically on ensuring that previously disadvantaged communities are included in Anglo's supply chains.

Prior to this, she worked as a senior associate at Genesis Analytics, the largest economics-based consultancy on the African continent. There, she focused on two areas of work, namely monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) and research projects related to establishing economic opportunity for young people across the African continent.

Kirra is particularly passionate about projects that align incentives facross diverse stakeholders to address socio-economic challenges. She will represent South Africa on the 'Innovation & Future of the World of Work' track at the Youth 20 (Y20) conference in Brazil.

Kirra was a Mandela Rhodes Scholar (Class of 2018), FuturElect fellow (Class of 2022) and is a Brightest Young Minds alumnus.



NIKITA VALA

2019 FIRSTRAND FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Master of Science, Big Data and Digital
Futures,
University of Warwick
vala.nikita@gmail.com

Updated 2023

Nikita works at the vibrant intersection of product and data, a space she fondly describes as the realm of the "product data unicorn." Although she has always worked in technology, her career took a significant turn after 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 entered the dynamic world of product analytics at Yoco, the emerging African payments start-up.

By October 2022, stepped into the role of analytics lead at Kandua, an early-stage marketplace start-up based in Johannesburg. In this role her versatility shines as she works across the entire data lifecycle, from building data models and creating compelling visualisations to fostering data literacy and authoring in-depth reports.

In 2022, Nikita's dedication was recognised when she was awarded the TechWomen Fellowship. With its mission to empower the next generation of women in STEM, the fellowship provided her with unparalleled opportunities to advance her career and aspirations. Selected from a pool with an acceptance rate of just 2.6%, she undertook a transformative five-week immersion in Silicon Valley, broadening her exposure to global technology trends and practices.

When not immersed in her work, Nikita explores topics close to her heart, including data feminism, algorithmic bias, and inclusive machine learning. Through these endeavours, she remains committed to championing a more inclusive and balanced technology ecosystem.





TIYANI MAJOKO

2019 FIRSTRAND FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

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

tiyani@lawgisticslegal.co.za

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's founding vision was 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 such as Sequoia Capital and Andreessen Horowitz (A16Z), and has also become a scout for Indie VC.



MICHAEL KRAMER

2019 FIRSTRAND FNB OXFORD EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Education,
University of Oxford

michaelkramersa@gmail.com

Updated 2024

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 reflects that his year at Oxford challenged him, made him question many of his previous beliefs reinforcing others. Surrounded by driven, ambitious and passionate individuals he says the experience was infectious, pushing him to think bigger and dream more boldly.

Michael is now engaged, for the Ironman World Championships.



HEATHER KAYTON

2019 FIRSTRAND FNB FUND EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

DPhil in Education,
University of Oxford

heatherlkayton@gmail.com

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 as 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 including the PIRLS 2021 National Report for England, and presented the findings from her PhD research at leading international conferences.

Heather is passionate about ensuring that the assessments 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.



IRENE PAMPALLIS

**2019 FIRSTRAND
FNB FUND EDUCATION
ASSISTANCE BURSARY**

Master's in Education and Learning,
University of Turku, Finland

irene.pampallis@gmail.com

Updated 2022

In the 2021-2022 academic year Irene completed her Master's 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.





**ANDREW
MOLVER**

2018 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**IRFAN
HABIB**

2018 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**BONOLO
MATHEKGA**

2018 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



**BUBELE
BOOI**

2018 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



**TSHEPO
MOLOI**

2018 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



**SHAEERA
KALLA**

2018 FIRSTRAND OXFORD
AFRICAN STUDIES
SCHOLARSHIP



**EMMA
WHITELAW**

2018 FIRSTRAND
FNB FUND EDUCATION
SCHOLARSHIP



**HEIDI
BARENDTS**

2018 FIRSTRAND
FNB FUND EDUCATION
SCHOLARSHIP



**ALISON
POLLEY-GREEN**

2018 FIRSTRAND
RMB FUND AD HOC
SCHOLARSHIP



ANDREW MOLVER

2018 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

Master's of Law,
University of Cambridge

molver@group621.co.za

Updated 2024

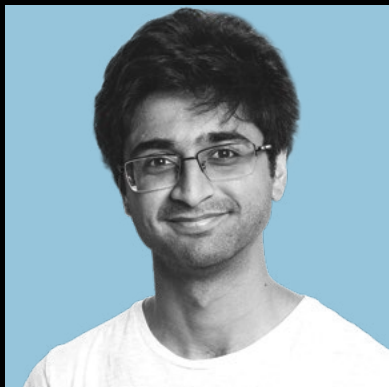
Andrew is from Pretoria. He studied at the University of Pretoria for a BCom (Law) and LLB, completing his studies in 2008. It is there that he served as chief electoral officer and deputy chief justice of the Constitutional Tribunal. Andrew was also a member of the university team that won the International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

Andrew is an advocate with particular interest 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. In 2021, Andrew made the transition from being an attorney to an advocate.

He is now practising as the latter at Group 621 in Sandton, Johannesburg.



IRFAN HABIB

2018 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

PhD in Condensed Matter
Physics, University of Oxford

ifoo Habib@gmail.com

Updated 2024

Irfan has successfully defended his PhD in Organic Solar Cells and is currently awaiting graduation. In the interim, he has joined a quantum computing start up as a hardware development engineer.

The start up, Oxford Ionics, is based in Oxford and aims to deliver high performance quantum computers. Despite the field being completely orthogonal to the topic of his PhD, he believes that it's an excellent opportunity to acquire deep technical expertise in semiconductor device fabrication and testing while building on the research and experimental skills he has developed thus far in his PhD.

In the long term, Irfan aims to expand access to semiconductor device development and testing in South Africa. During his PhD, he benefited from fabricating his own devices and conducting specialised testing through in-person facility access, opportunities seldom available locally. Although remote testing and development options exist, they leave a significant gap in hands-on skills development and learning. Over the next few years, he intends to broaden his experience across the semiconductor development lifecycle to help close this gap.



BONOLO MATHEKGA

2018 FIRSTRAND FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Bioengineering Innovation and
Design,
Johns Hopkins University

bonolomathekga@gmail.com

Updated 2023

Bonolo co-founded a start-up company which has won several awards and funding grants since its formation in 2019, including the Venturewel 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, focuses on providing accessible, accurate diagnosis for tuberculosis patients in India and sub-Saharan Africa. Bonolo also has part-time employment with RAD (Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics), an initiative of the US Department of Health's National Institutes of Health to speed up innovation in the development, commercialisation and implementation of technologies for Covid-19 testing in the United States.



BUBELE BOOI

2018 FIRSTRAND FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Master's in Music Technology,
New York University

b.booi808@gmail.com

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 Master's 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.





TSHEPO MOLOI

2018 FIRSTRAND FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Economics and Public
Policy, University of York

moloit.leader@gmail.com

Updated 2024

Tshepo Moloi, an accomplished economist with over eight years of experience, has held positions at prestigious institutions including the National Treasury, the South African Reserve Bank, and the Bureau for Economic Research.

He is currently working at the Parliamentary Budget Office in Cape Town, where he provides research and analysis on the macroeconomic situation, fiscal policy, and other policies to support Members of Parliament in fulfilling their oversight role over the Executive.

Tshepo holds a Master's degree in Economics from the University of the Free State and a Master of Public Administration and International Development from the University of York in the United Kingdom. Recognised for his expertise in economic and financial matters, his insights have been featured on various national media platforms, including Power FM, eNCA, Lesedi FM, News 24, SA FM, Newz Room Afrika, Radio 702, CNBC Africa, and Business Day TV.

In 2023, the Mail and Guardian honoured him as one of the Top 200 Young South Africans.

In addition to his work in economics, Tshepo serves as CFO for Lawyers for the Arts South Africa, a non-profit organisation dedicated to providing legal support and education to individuals and organisations in the arts and creative sector. He also leads the organisation's financial literacy division, demonstrating his commitment to promoting economic empowerment and education within the community.



SHAEERA KALLA

2018 FIRSTRAND OXFORD AFRICAN STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in African Studies,
University of Oxford

shaerakalla@gmail.com

Updated 2023

Shaeera is a filmmaker and activist. Her unique style blends 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. There she lived with different groups of the Hadzabe tribe, one of the last hunter gatherer tribes in Africa. A short film was produced and screened for the community and further storytelling projects examining carbon credits and the “business of sustainability” are anticipated.

She also spent a month shooting in Zanzibar for her first independent feature documentary and has been developing of a fiction script based on her family history in Marabastad and cinema culture in multi-ethnic communities which were destroyed by the apartheid.

In 2023, Shaeera was selected as one of 18 filmmakers worldwide for the prestigious Atelier Ludwigsburg-Paris programme, a year-long residency based between Germany, France, and the United Kingdom.

At a strategic level she is involved in the #PayTheGrants campaign now a registered NPO, which links local activism with global research to demonstrate that a universal basic income guarantee is both necessary and sound policy. She serves on the board of SECTION27 - catalyst for social justice and a public interest law centre that protects, promotes and advances human rights.



EMMA WHITELAW

2018 FIRSTRAND FNB FUND EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Economics,
University of York

emmajejanwhitelaw@gmail.com

Updated 2024

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.



ALISON POLLEY-GREEN

2018 FIRSTRAND RMB FUND AD HOC SCHOLARSHIP

MPhil in Art Education,
Cambridge University

education@assitej.org.za

Updated 2024

Currently the Head of Education at ASSITEJ South Africa, Alison is a researcher, educator, lecturer and cultural manager based in Johannesburg, South Africa with a MPhil in Education from the University of Cambridge, UK.

She has held various positions with ASSITEJ South Africa, an NPO focused on the holistic development of children and youth through arts-based initiatives, artist support, networking and training, education and exchange programmes. Since 2018, she has played a more strategic, visionary role for ASSITEJ SA, by fostering successful partnerships between stakeholders, as well as overseeing the Johannesburg office and managing the Johannesburg-based team.

In 2023 she ran the ASSITEJ South Africa Cradle of Creativity Conference and Professional Development Programme which created cutting-edge research in the field, but also welcomed opportunities for artistic exchange, sharing and connection between young artists and cultural leaders. The conference showcased international guests and presenters from countries such as Belgium, Brazil, Germany, India, Mexico, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, and closer to home Malawi, Kenya, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia and Zambia

In 2018 she received a certificate of recognition from the City of New York, signed by the Mayor Bill de Blasio and the Chief Service Officer, Patricia Eng, for her contribution to the Artists Striving to End Poverty/Arts Ignite exchange programme in collaboration with Nosi's Haven Village, an HIV/Aids home for families affected and/or infected by the epidemic in Johannesburg. Through her relationship with Arts Ignite, she has visited New York to support the Artists as Citizen' conference, a youth development opportunity for artists focusing on the roles of activist and active citizen.

She has also been a long-time student with the East Side Institute in New York, an international centre for the study of social therapeutics and performance activism and has attended and presented at the Performing The World Conference.

She is a sessional lecturer and master's candidate supervisor for Drama for Life (DFL) an Applied Theatre department, which is part of the School of Arts at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. Alison is personally invested in research around PLAY and believes fundamentally in the power of arts to transform and develop communities.

Education is the passport to the future,
for tomorrow belongs to those who
prepare for it today.

- Malcom X



**APHIWE
MAPETERE**

2017 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENNAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**TEDDY
MUDGE**

2017 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENNAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**FARAI
MUBAIWA**

2017 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



**SAFA
NARAGHI**

2017 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



**TSHEPO
MOSAKA**

2017 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



**KEYAN
JARDINE**

2017 FIRSTRAND OXFORD
AFRICAN STUDIES
SCHOLARSHIP



APHIWE MAPETERE

2017 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Water and Wastewater
Engineering, Cranfield University

ajikazana@gmail.com

Updated 2024

Aphiwe holds a PhD from the Cranfield Water Science Institute, having completed her FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship-funded MSc in Water and Wastewater Engineering in 2018 at Cranfield University, UK.

She is currently a business unit manager at WEC Water (Pty) Ltd, a leading water and wastewater treatment company in South Africa. In her role, she oversees the after-sales division which includes the operations and maintenance of a number of water and wastewater treatment plants around the country.

Her passion for water is closely followed by her interest in all things circular economy. In May 2024, Aphiwe formed part of the South African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry business delegation to the IFAT Munich 2024 trade fair where she gained insights into innovative German circular economy technologies and established connections with potential business partners and suppliers.

Since early 2024, she has had the honour of being involved with the Water Research Commission Young Engineers Changemakers Programme, which aims to advance the skills and opportunities of South African municipal engineers. She remains excited at the prospect of continually contributing to capacity building in the South African water sector.



TEDDY MUDGE

2017 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

Master's in Medical Device Design and
Entrepreneurship,
Imperial College London

teddymudge@gmail.com

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.



FARAI NTULI

2017 FIRSTRAND FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

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

farai.mubaiwa@accenture.com

Updated 2024

Farai 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 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.



TSHEPO MOSAKA

2017 FIRSTRAND FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

PhD in Law,
Nottingham University

bogosiboile@gmail.com

Updated 2022

Tshepo is from Dobsonville in Soweto in Gauteng. He holds an LB from the University of the Witwatersrand (2014) and an LM 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.



KEYAN JARDINE

2017 FIRSTRAND OXFORD AFRICAN STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in African Studies,
University of Oxford

jardinekeyan@gmail.com

Updated 2022

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 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 on 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

Class Of

2016





**RUSSEL
DARIES**

2016 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**MOGWALE
MOTEBEJANE**

2016 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



**GENNA
GARDINI**

2016 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



RUSSEL DARIES

2016 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Machine Learning,
University College London

rdaries29@gmail.com

Updated 2024

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 from 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 Goodwall, focusing on empowering youth through online experiential learning programmes that upskill young talent and prepare them for future career success. This role combines his passion for education with his expertise in data science and large-scale machine learning to support young people across the globe.



MOGWALE MOTEBEJANE

2016 FIRSTRAND FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Research fellowship in Interventional
Neuroradiology,
Tufts University School of Medicine

mogwalem@yahoo.com

Updated 2022

In 2016, Mogwale completed his research fellowship in Interventional Neuroradiology at Lahey Hospital and Medical Centre in Boston, USA. His research topic focused on foramen magnum dural arteriovenous fistulas, and he submitted a on this topic 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 Master's dissertation at the World Federation of Interventional and Therapeutic Neuroradiology conference in Budapest, Hungary in October 2017.

Mogwale completed his Master's 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.





GENNA GARDINI

2016 FIRSTRAND FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

PhD in Drama,
Queen Mary University of London

gennagardini@gmail.com

Updated 2024

As part of Gena's PhD project at Queen Mary University of London, she wrote a play titled *Many Scars*, which explores experiences of multiple sclerosis, a disease she lives with.

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.

I never lose.
I either win or learn.

-Nelson Mandela



**BRANDON
FINN**

2015 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**ESTHER CHRISTINE
MCFARLANE**

2015 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**INGRID
PENZHORN**

2015 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**THATO
MASIANGOAKO**

2015 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



BRANDON FINN

2015 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Urban Studies,
University College London

brandonthefinn@gmail.com

Updated 2022

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 UrbanStudies at University College London, completed in 2016.

Currently Brandon is completing his PhD in Urban Planning 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.



ESTHER CHRISTINE MCFARLANE

2015 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

International and Comparative Education
Master's Programme,
Columbia University

es.mcfarlane@gmail.com

Updated 2022

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

Esther completed her Master's 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.

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.

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 systems.

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.



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.

On returning to South Africa she started her training as a 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.

INGRID PENZHORN

2015 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Neuroscience,
King's College London

ingrid.penzhorn@gmail.com

Updated 2024



THATO MASIANGOAKO

2015 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in African Politics, SOAS
University of London

thatomasiangoako@gmail.com

Updated 2024

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, a non-profit human rights organisation working with communities, social movements and individuals to develop and implement strategies to challenge inequality and realise socioeconomic 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 activities fall in line with her passion for attaining and sharing knowledge as well as her plans to pursue a PhD in the near future.

Class Of

2014





**ANDREW
LINDEN**

2014 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**GIFT
PULE**

2014 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**MICHAEL
SCHMID**

2014 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**SYDELLE
WILLOW SMITH**

2014 FIRSTRAND
ASSISTANCE
BURSARY



ANDREW LINDEN

2014 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

DPhil in Population Health,
University of Oxford

andrew.brent.linden@gmail.com

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.



GIFT PULE

2014 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

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

giftpu@mail.com

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, responsible for investment execution and management.

Prior to SPE, he worked as an Investment Analyst at Value Capital Partners, an activist shareholder investment firm that holds minority positions in JSE-listed companies.

Between 2016 and 2018, Gift was a member of the investment team at Allan Gray, one of South Africa's leading asset management firms, where his experience covered JSE-listed equities and African equities outside of South Africa.



MICHAEL SCHMID

2014 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

Master's in Micro and Nanotechnology
Enterprise,
University of Cambridge

schidmike@gmail.com

Updated 2024

A mechanical engineer by training, over the years Michael has become increasingly focused on addressing climate change.

This can be traced back to being awarded a FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship in 2014 for a Master's in Micro and Nanotechnology Enterprise at the University of Cambridge.

Through his thesis work, Michael connected with a Cambridge-based start-up that converted methane (a potent greenhouse gas) into solid carbon materials such as graphene. He headed up their business development unit for two years. Michael moved back to South Africa to work at Boston Consulting Group, where over a six-year period he worked with companies and African governments to transition to clean energy sources and define their net zero carbon strategies.

In 2024 he joined Climeworks and leads their strategy team. Climeworks is a startup that designs, builds and operates direct air capture plants, machines that pull carbon dioxide out the atmosphere, and durably store it to support global net zero goals.

Class Of

2013





**CHARLOTTE
SLINGSBY**

2013 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**MATTHEW
GADD**

2013 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**SHAHIDA
MOOSA**

2013 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**MLULEKI
SHONGWE**

2013 MOMENTUM
DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**DEENA
DINAT**

2013 FIRSTRAND
ASSISTANCE
BURSARY



**TIFFANY
EBRAHIM**

2013 FIRSTRAND
ASSISTANCE
BURSARY



CHARLOTTE SLINGSBY

2013 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

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

chaslingsby@gmail.com

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.



MATTHEW GADD

**2013 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP**

DPhil in Engineering Science,
University of Oxford

matthew.gadd@gmail.com

Updated 2024

Matt has recently been promoted to senior research associate at the Oxford Robotics Institute, continues to teach at St Hilda's College as a lecturer in Engineering Science, and continues to consult at Oxa (previously known as Oxbotica) as a senior software engineer.

In his research life, Matt is still interested in learning-based calibrated uncertainty for localisation, making sure robots can explain when they fail (critical for assurance and insurance).

He is also increasingly interested in understanding the controllability of robots from remote viewpoints (flipping the script on decades of ego-centric robotics research, driving the cost of sense in deploying robots at vast scale to zero).

Recently, he has supervised breakthrough research in applying vision-language models to self-driving, reducing LLM hallucination in deployment scenarios very far from the training data (i.e. making them much more generally useful).



SHAHIDA MOOSA

2013 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

PhD in Molecular Genetics,
University of Cologne

shahidamoosa@gmail.com

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.



MLULEKI SHONGWE

2013 MOMENTUM DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

LLM in Finance and Law,
Duisenberg School of Finance

mlushongwe@gmail.com

Updated 2024

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 a qualified attorney of the High Court of South Africa.

He holds the following qualifications: LLB (cum laude) from the University of Zululand, LLM (Banking and Stock Exchange Law) from the University of Johannesburg, LLM (Finance and Law) from the Duisenberg School of Finance, the Netherlands, postgraduate Diploma in General Management and MBA from the Gordon's Institute of Business Science.

He also completed the Advanced Management and Leadership Programme from the Said Business School, University of Oxford and the Executive Leadership Programme at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.

Mluleki is one of the 2024 Yale Emerging Climate Leaders Fellows which is sponsored by the Yale University. The fellows comprise sixteen young leaders from the global south who were brought together to engage on solutions to help address climate change.

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.





DEENA DINAT

2013 FIRSTRAND ASSISTANCE BURSARY

CMA in English Literature,
University of British Columbia

deenadinat@gmail.com

Updated 2024

Deena graduated with a n 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.



TIFFANY EBRAHIM

2013 FIRSTRAND ASSISTANCE BURSARY

MSc in Gender, Sexuality and Society,
Amsterdam University

tiffany.ebrahim@gmail.com

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.



**MATTHEW
BUTLER-ADAM**

2012 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**THYLA
VAN DER MERWE**

2012 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**ALEX
HALLIGEY**

2012 FIRSTRAND
ASSISTANCE
BURSARY



**JESSICA
BENJAMIN**

2012 FIRSTRAND
ASSISTANCE
BURSARY



**NGOVUYO
GUGUSHE**

2012 FIRSTRAND
ASSISTANCE
BURSARY



**ROBERT
FREEMAN**

2012 FIRSTRAND
ASSISTANCE
BURSARY



**MATTHEW
BUTLER-ADAM**

**2012 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP**

MSc in Economics for Development,
University of Oxford

btlmat001@gmail.com

Updated 2024

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 \$100 000 - \$2 million) 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.



THYLA VAN DER MERWE

2012 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Information Systems,
University of London

tjvdmerwe@gmail.com

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



ALEX HALLIGEY

2012 FIRSTRAND ASSISTANCE BURSARY

MA in Performance Studies,
New York University

alexhalligey@gmail.com

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 Mothertongue 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.



JESSICA BENJAMIN

2012 FIRSTRAND ASSISTANCE BURSARY

MPA in Public Administration,
Columbia University

jessicabenjamin1@gmail.com

Updated 2024

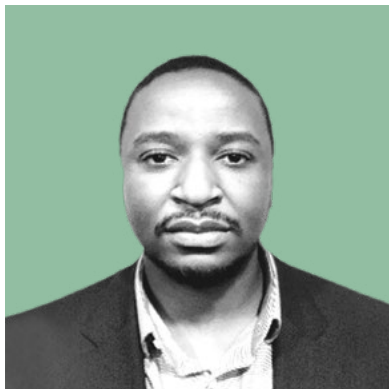
Jessica began her career at Genesis Analytics, Africa's largest economics consultancy.

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.



NGOVUYO GUGUSHE

2012 FIRSTRAND ASSISTANCE BURSARY

MA in Finance,
University of Cambridge

ngovuyog@gmail.com

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.

Ngovuy 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. Ngovuy 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.



ROBERT FREEMAN

2012 FIRSTRAND ASSISTANCE BURSARY

MA in Issues in Modern Culture,
University College London

robhfree@gmail.com

Updated 2024

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.



**ANDREW
PAVERD**

2011 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**NKAZIMULO
SOKHULU**

2011 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**LEANNE
BRADY**

2011 MOMENTUM
DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**ZOË
LINCOLN**

2011 FIRSTRAND
ASSISTANCE
BURSARY



ANDREW PAVERD

2011 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

DPhil in Computer Science,
University of Oxford

andrew.paverd@gmail.com

Updated 2024

Andrew is a principal research manager at Microsoft, based in Cambridge, UK. He and his team investigate the security and privacy of AI and machine learning systems. He recently led the publication of Microsoft's new vulnerability severity classification for AI systems.

Andrew holds a BSc in Electrical Engineering from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg and an MSc in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Cape Town. He was awarded a FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar Scholarship in 2011 to pursue a DPhil in Computer Science at the University of Oxford, which he completed in 2015.

Prior to joining Microsoft, Andrew was a research fellow at Aalto University, Finland, and deputy director of the Helsinki-Aalto Centre for Information Security, where he led public outreach efforts. In 2017 he was awarded a US-UK Fulbright Cyber Security Scholarship, which supported a four-month research visit to the University of California, Irvine.

Andrew also lectures the Network Security course on the MSc in Software and Systems Security at the University of Oxford, for which he received Departmental Teaching Awards in 2020 and 2021.



NKAZIMULO SOKHULU

**2011 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP**

MBA.
Columbia University

sokhulu@gmail.com

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.



LEANNE BRADY

2011 MOMENTUM DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

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

tships@gmail.com

Updated 2024

Leanne is a health activist and filmmaker working in the public ambulance service in the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness.

She received the 2023 PHILA Annual Award (for public health innovation and lifetime achievement for extraordinary contributions to public health in South Africa) and a Public Service Excellence Award for the Vaxi Taxi, a mobile Covid-19 vaccination unit.

She was recently awarded the Loeb Fellowship at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, and will be headed to Boston for a year in August.

Her work combines storytelling and activism to grapple with the complex socio-political consequences of apartheid on public infrastructure, and the ongoing impact on health (in)equity. Over the last 15 years she has designed and implemented a range of projects that seek to disrupt patterns of spatial apartheid and reimagine the role the public health system can play as a mechanism for restorative justice.

Her praxis is located at the intersection of public health and the built environment where she works with a range of community organising and action research collectives to create spaces that invite bottom-up problem solving of health system issues. She has an MBChB from the University of Pretoria (2008), an MSc in Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (2012), and is currently completing a PhD in Health Policy and Systems Research at the University of Cape Town.



ZOË LINCOLN

2011 FIRSTRAND ASSISTANCE BURSARY

MSc in Sustainable Energy Systems,
Edinburgh University

zoelincoln@gmail.com

Updated 2024

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.



**DAVID
HOFMEYR**

2010 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**DAVID
WATSON**

2010 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**TRACEY
MILLIN**

2010 MOMENTUM
DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**ABIGAIL
MARCUS**

2010 FIRSTRAND
ASSISTANCE
BURSARY



**HANNAH
DIAZ**

2010 FIRSTRAND
ASSISTANCE
BURSARY



**INKA
SCHOMER**

2010 FIRSTRAND
ASSISTANCE
BURSARY



**SIMON
MARCUS**

2010 FIRSTRAND
ASSISTANCE
BURSARY



DAVID HOFMEYR

2010 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Organisational Mathematics,
Edinburgh University

david.p.hofmeyr@gmail.com

Updated 2022

After completing his Master's 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 (BDataSci) 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 WATSON

2010 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

MPhil in Civil Law,
University of Oxford

davewatson@gmail.com

Updated 2024

David is from Durbanville in Cape Town. He holds a BScSci in Politics, Philosophy and Economics and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Cape Town.

David was awarded a FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship in 2010 for a Bachelor of 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.

David 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. Specific areas that he works in include company law, whistleblowing, commercial fraud, insolvency, regulatory work, tender disputes, contractual disputes, and occasionally constitutional litigation.

Much of his work now takes place in arbitration or private enquiries. Notable public cases include representing the Presidency and Cabinet in a fight over the legality of the lockdown regulations under the Covid pandemic; representing duty-free stores before the Constitutional Court in a dispute regarding duty-free tariffs; acting against the Kingdom of Lesotho in a dispute over the enforceability of an international arbitration award and the constitutionality of the International Arbitration Act; appearing before the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors in relation to the audit of VSB Mutual Bank; acting in shareholder and company disputes, and in cases arising under and relating to the broad-based black economic empowerment legislation.

David sits on the Bar Council of the Johannesburg Society of Advocates, acts as the secretary of the Judicial Candidates Review Committee, and does pupillage and advocacy training on behalf of the Bar. He acts pro bono for a range of clients, including recently representing overcrowded high schools in the Eastern Cape in a claim against the province for the urgent construction of classrooms, appearing in a criminal appeal, and assisting indigent litigants with insurance claims.



TRACEY MILLIN

2010 MOMENTUN DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

MSc Education: Language, Theory and
Practice,
Edinburgh University

millintracey@gmail.com

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 M TESOL, PGCertTESOL, PGDipEd (TLL) and Med (TLL) programmes.

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



ABIGAIL MARCUS

2010 FIRSTRAND ASSISTANCE BURSARY

MA in Law,
New York University

abigail@abigailmarcus.com

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 Law 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.



HANNAH DIAZ

2010 FIRSTRAND ASSISTANCE BURSARY

MA in Development Studies,
Erasmus University, Rotterdam

hannahdewet@gmail.com

Updated 2022

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.



INKA SCHOMER

2010 FIRSTRAND ASSISTANCE BURSARY

MSc in Environment Change
Management,
University of Oxford

inkaschomer@gmail.com

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 of 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.



SIMON MARCUS

2010 FIRSTRAND ASSISTANCE BURSARY

MA in Philosophy,
New York University

simon@simonmarcus.org

Updated 2022

Simon attended New York University for the Master's 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.

Inclusive good-quality education
is a foundation for dynamic and
equitable societies.

- Desmond Tutu



**BEN
WINKS**

2009 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**MARYKE
BAILEY**

2009 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**KYLA
BRADY**

2009 MOMENTUM
DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



BEN WINKS

2009 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

Advanced LLM,
Leiden University

ben.winks@gmail.com

Updated 2023

After graduating cum laude from Leiden University in 2010 with an Advanced Master's 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.



MARYKE BAILEY

2009 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

MPhil in Intellectual History,
University of Sussex

maryke.bailey@gmail.com

Updated 2024

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 coauthor with John Pampallis of a South African historybook.

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

In 2024, Maryke was a reviewer for a South African history book aimed at children as well as for an American children's history magazine doing a special edition on South Africa.



KYLA BRADY

2009 MOMENTUM DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

PhD in Stem Cell Biology,
University of Bristol

kyla.brady22@gmail.com

Updated 2024

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 research career she completed Physician Associate studies at the University of Manchester and held the role of research physician associate in the Oncology Clinical Trials Unit in Plymouth.

She has recently been appointed lead research practitioner for Oncology and Haematology at Royal Stoke University Hospital where she leads the delivery of research studies and clinical trials that offer novel and innovative treatment options to patients with cancer.

When you learn, teach.
When you get, give.

- Maya Angelou

Class Of

2008





**LUCY
CORKIN**

2008 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**DOMINIQUE
DAVIES**

2008 MOMENTUM
DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**WILLEM
KLOPPER**

2008 MOMENTUM
DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



LUCY CORKIN

2008 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

PhD in Political Science,
SOAS University of London

lucy.corkin@rmb.co.za

Updated 2024

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, during which she rotated through various divisions at RMB, learning the ropes of investment banking.

In 2020, she received the Pride of RMB Award, recognised as a leader in her field. She subsequently took up the role of RMB's head of strategic alignment to support the incoming CEO Emrie Brown crystallise her vision for RMB. In 2024, Lucy returned to her passion for all things Pan-African and she joined the Broader Africa Structured and Derivative Sales team for a front seat to the action.

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, 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. At home, she sharpens her negotiation skills with her son Kai (9), and daughter Imogen (6).



DOMINIQUE DAVIES

2008 MOMENTUM DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in African Studies.
University of Oxford

dominique@rbafrica.co.za

Updated 2024

Dominique is a director at RB Africa, a consultancy focused on developing sustainable and innovative solutions for organisations operating in South Africa

Her work over the past decade has given her the opportunity to gain insight into diverse business sectors from manufacturing and mining, to the oceans economy and renewable energy.

Dominique's passion project is the Wild Coast Challenge, a three-day, 120km trail run down the Transkei coastline, which she organises every year. She is co-founder and director of RB Adventures and loves organising and participating in off-the-beaten track events with her husband and other like-minded people. RB Adventures aims to give back by fundraising and supporting local initiatives as well as by removing litter from the beaches of the Wild Coast

Dominique's heart remains rooted in the Eastern Cape, where she lives on a small holding with her husband, three children, ngunis, peacocks, donkeys and chickens.



WILLEM KLOPPER

2008 MOMENTUM DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

MA in Management Research,
University of Oxford

klopperw@gmail.com

Updated 2024

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

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

In 2017, Willem joined the Eric Ellerine family office and was the company's chief investment officer until the start of 2022.

Since then he has been part of the We Buy Cars leadership team and is currently the chief strategy officer for the group.

He lives in Centurion with his young family.

Education is the key to unlocking
the world, ia passport to freedom.

- Oprah Winfrey



**GUS
WASCHEFORT**

2007 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



**CHRISTIE
DORFLING**

2007 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP



GUS WASCHEFORT

2007 FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

PhD in Law,
School of Oriental and African Studies

g.wascheford@essex.ac.uk

Gus is a practicing barrister (advocate) and member of Guernica 37 Chambers in London, as well as an associate professor of law at the University of Essex.

His recent and ongoing work includes being instructed and/ or advising on matters relating to climate litigation in Africa (including the advisory proceedings before the International Court of Justice); matters before the European Court of Human Rights and the Kosovo Specialist Chambers; submissions to UN treaty bodies and special procedures, accountability mechanisms in the Middle Eastern context; immunities and privileges before international organizations; sanctions regimes of the EU, US and UK; submissions to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Court in terms of Article 15 of the Rome Statute; accountability and rule of law development in the Gambia; and provision of training and strategic engagement regarding domestic prosecution for atrocity crimes.

Gus aims for synergy between his work as practitioner and academic. For example, his recent article published in the European Journal of International Law on the right to life during armed conflict is informed by his advisory work (2010-2013) to the former UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial executions.

Key themes in his recent published work includes, an African regional understanding of public international law and its development, the nexus between peace and security and environmental protection in the African context, the regulation of Armed Conflict in Africa, the protection of children during armed conflict, and the enforcement mechanisms of the African human rights system.



CHRISTIE DORFLING

**2007 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP**

MSc in Engineering,
University of Cambridge

dorfling@sun.ac.za

Christie is a professor and chair person of the Department of Chemical Engineering at Stellenbosch University.

His career in academia allows him to pursue his passions for teaching and research, His research focusses 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.



Michael Burke

MICHELLE ROGERS

Maryke Barney



Fathima Docrat



Shimo

Herrese

ILRAJH

~~Motono~~

Willem Kloppe

Longy
Beatty

Keyam



OTESJANG

Xirra Evans

All my
Sh...

Funda

Palesa Phalatale

Jyffo

BAMOLO
MACHEGA

R

JKL & ORY

Beatty

Aphuwe Jekuzana



IMKAVU
SCHOMER



I COME. I SAN.
I STUDIED
- DAVID HATNEY

GIRLS WITH DEGREES
- ASHLEY & MARCUS BARRY



THLA VAN DER MERWE

Coe Lincoln



TSEPHISO SOMO

BUBBLE BOOI

Irene Pampallis

BUTLER-ADAM



nonkululeko.V

WE CAME
WE SAW
WE CONQUERED

ADRIAN McINTOSH

C. MBUYISA

Nkazimulo ☺

G. Kumalo ☺

H



ALFA

~~ALFA~~



Arrecter



Movuyo
Gugushe

JARON
COITEN

NIKITA
VALA ♡



J
Elmy
Stamin

love
ahida
noosa

Kradin
Sida

~~ALFA~~
HASSERIL

LEANNE

B

Nusipho Curmede

C. Lude



JAMES LUNSON

AYABULELA
MHLAHLA

Ingrid
Pienaar ☺

Stingsby ☺

Aparisa
Uthulane. ♡

Heather Kayton



ZOLANI
METV

Tando
Masinga



Ingrid Pienaar



Gift Pule Theo

GIADDO this!!

