



YOUNG AFRICAN N MAGAZINE

IN CONVERSATION WITH XIPIXI
FOUNDER ANTONIO MACHEVE JR

WOMEN ON THE CUTTING EDGE

GETTING TO THE HEART
OF CIVIL SOCIETY

CELEBRATING
**African
Excellence**

THE MANDELA RHODES FOUNDATION ALUMNI MAGAZINE • ISSUE 1 • 2018

Commentaries

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YOUNG AFRICAN MAGAZINE

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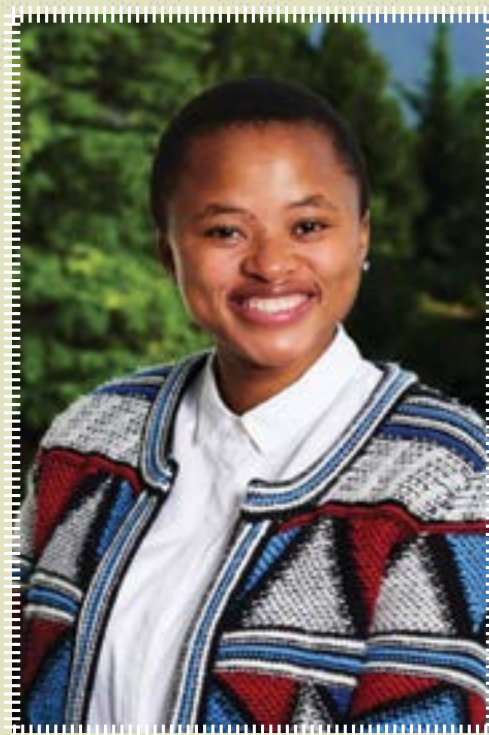
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a note from the Founding Editor-in- Chief

IF YOU HAD told the 22-year-old version of myself that ten years after my year in residence as a Mandela Rhodes Scholar I would become the Deputy Executive Director at the MRF, I would have probably pegged you as overly enthusiastic and thanked you for the sentiments nonetheless.

But your premonition would not have been altogether misguided. You would have made such a statement based on your understanding of a fundamental purpose of our programme: that in its aim to build exceptional leadership in Africa, the Mandela Rhodes Foundation equips and accelerates the growth and development of Africa's youth to become leaders in their fields much earlier than would be the norm. Our hope was that over time, Mandela Rhodes Scholars would begin to be in influential spaces in their fields, practicing ethical leadership by living out the values and principles of the Foundation that they espoused when accepting the award.

But where are these Alumni from the programme and what are they currently doing with their lives? Enter the *Young African* magazine and its intention to showcase some of the incredible work, projects and continued aspirations of our Alumni. In this inaugural edition, you will read stories and opinions from some of Africa's most exceptional young leaders, pursuing incredible feats in areas such as health, affordable housing, public service, the re-imagining of art history, entrepreneurial pursuits,



“The desire to create a better African continent reverberates through these pages.”

and humanitarian work through the United Nations, to name but a few. In reading the stories that we have featured, I felt a sense of deep pride in knowing that I work for an organisation that plays a part in planting seeds that are beginning to reap impactful rewards. The desire and passion to create a better African continent reverberates through these pages, leaving one with a knowing and realistic sense of optimism that Africa has everything that it needs to prosper, if only we can provide the platform to hone and develop the skills and passions of our young leaders.

Special congratulations to our Founding Editor Coralie Valentyn, and her sub-editorial team for the incredible job done in compiling this inaugural magazine. I hope you are as proud as I am of your curation of this platform, where we can celebrate with the world some of the joys of what we call the Mandela Rhodes Magic!

Judy Sikuza

South Africa & Nelson Mandela University, 2007
Mandela Rhodes Foundation Deputy Executive Director



a note from the Founding Editor

WELCOME TO THE inaugural edition of *Young African Magazine*. It is with great care and a shared vision that we've been able to put together the Foundation's first Alumni magazine, and what a journey it has been!

Young African was inspired by our desire to connect meaningfully with Scholars and Alumni. It seeks to deepen our identities as Mandela Rhodes Scholars and further build a sense of community. The aim of this first issue is to celebrate the multitude of African countries where, through its Scholars, the Foundation is represented, as well as provide a sense of the Foundation's vision. That vision, as you know, is building exceptional leadership in Africa. Moreover, it is a platform to hear what's emerging from the continent, giving credence to the ingenuity and potential that is Africa.

We feature Alumni who are currently living or working in various countries on the African continent, engaging in a range of pursuits pertaining to Africa. Furthermore, we hear from Alumni reflecting on their involvement with the Foundation over the past few years. We also get insight into what they are grappling with and passionate about through the thought leadership articles.

This edition boasts contributions from 11 out of the 13 Mandela Rhodes Classes, starting from as early as 2006. It also features representatives from 13 African countries spanning southern, east, and west Africa! I look forward to seeing this number grow and having our footprint etched on every corner of the continent in the coming years.

I am deeply moved and inspired by the many Scholars who have shared their stories in *Young African*. Thank you to each of you for making this dream a reality. Lastly, a special thank you to my editorial team – it's been a privilege working with you and learning from you.

I hope you all enjoy this edition and feel proud of being part of this special family.

“Young African was inspired by our desire to connect meaningfully with Scholars and Alumni.”

Coralie Valentyn

South Africa & University of the Western Cape, 2014
Mandela Rhodes Foundation Programme Associate

YAM: Consider the Metaphor

by Zimpande Kawanu (South Africa & UCT, 2017)
Mandela Rhodes Foundation Intern and Sub-editor



“I AM MORE fascinated by Nairobi than by Africa”, writes Teju Cole, articulating a position with which many of us identify. The idea of ‘Africa’ as a trope is a recent artifact and one which, owing to the transitory nature of the cyclical arcs of unending historical time, has been ceding ground to a more complicated and contested representation. We are less interested in Africa as a trope, backdrop or background. We “want to talk about Lagos, we don’t want to talk about Africa,” and still quoting Cole, we “want to hear someone speaking Yoruba, Ewe, Tiv, or Lingala. ‘African’ is not a language. I want to know if a plane is going to the Félix-Houphouët-Boigny International Airport. You can’t go to ‘Africa,’ fam. Africa is almost 12 million square miles. I want to be particular about being particular about what we are talking about when we talk about Africa.” These remarks provide an overture to the following contemplation on the name of the inaugural magazine that you’re clasping in your hands – *Young African Magazine (YAM)*.

The composite acronym, *YAM*, the reader may perceive, could be read as exhibiting the very same flaw I am speaking of, that of reducing titanic complexities into an idiom or totem. And yes, admittedly, the invoked hypothetical young African is a figure of speech, However, this is deliberate. Thus, to that end as a synecdoche (a symbol standing in and representing many things), this title – *Young African* – is intended to operate primarily as a proxy. And because this is strategic, this proxy, scarcely being hollow, functions as a site that allows for so much more to be conveyed than what would have been elemental, folk or ethnic in accent. Furthermore, designed to be open-ended, this name is advantageous to the degree that, whilst allowing for the encapsulation of elemental, folk and ethnic inflections, it transcends what would be a limited and limiting nomenclature. I am not arguing against or for the particular, instead, I am claiming that whilst the particular is defined by its attachment to fixed notions of geography, language and culture, it need not ultimately be over-determined by these to the point of insularity.

Fundamentally, this acronym, in a myriad of profitable ways, is operating on the level of metaphor.

“We should embrace the connotations of fertility, sustenance and longevity associated with yams.”

Metaphors are distinct from the essentialising tropes Cole speaks against and repudiates, such as the notions designating Africa as a single nation with a homogenous population and language. Metaphors, and the myths that they establish, are also concerned with encoding and decoding the metaphysical aspects behind our material lives – such as the numina, spiritual and inexplicable – that go beyond denoting merely physical and specified events. The vitality of metaphors is inestimable, and amongst other innumerable functions, they enable us to venture into the existential where questions of ethics and morality manifest.

Metaphors and myths emanate from our imagination. Similarly, other intangible virtues – empathy, love, compassion etcetera – I tentatively add, share a common provenance. *YAM* is propitious for it invokes the perennial edible tubers, yams, which have been a staple food in many parts of the African continent for eons, especially in West and Central Africa. These nutritional and progenitive tubers, which can go for up to six months without refrigeration, remain a primary agricultural and cultural commodity across Africa. In a symbolic sense, yams – the elixir of lore – yielded the sustenance that fuelled those ancient flourishing Sahelian empires. Yam festivals subsist in these regions, where communities gather in ceremony to commemorate the close of a harvest and the dawning of yet another cycle of sowing.

Thus, with this acronym, *YAM*, we embrace the connotations of fertility, sustenance and longevity associated with yams. From here onwards is the ripe time to begin an odyssey in which we may eventually glean more nuances and yield finer details when we think about what we are thinking about when we talk about Africa.





THOUGHT-LEADERSHIP

The Unspoken Gesture

**Kangwa-Musole George Chisanga (Zambia & UCT, 2014)
reflects on the role of young citizens in the public sector.**

THE PRIVILEGE OF being counted among Africa's future leaders has been a humbling yet taxing experience. For a young person aspiring to be significant, nowhere is this more evident than in the public sector.


Africa's public sector employs more people and, by implication, embodies most of the challenges that characterise the continent. In my home country of Zambia, many administrative structures and processes remain unchanged since independence. As elected politicians and career bureaucrats populate the public sector, the development of the nation has hinged on the operations of the less than well-oiled machine of government. I write from the perspective of a new entrant into the civil service.

The paradox for me as a young would-be technocrat with a postgraduate qualification is this: what use is the fine-tuned mind of mine if it can only play to the tune of well-functioning state machinery? Is my education supposed to be useful only when the nation has reached certain levels of good governance? Is my skillset the engine oil which the state machinery so desperately needs? These questions plagued my mind as I decided to resign from the private sector and join the civil service.

For a long time I held the opinion that public service is not a starting point for a career in law. The low (to no) pay, the long hours and the mind-numbing bureaucracy makes the civil service unattractive to one

trained to fluently speak the language of corporate law. Yet, when faced with reality, I found that all the theory I learned about corporate governance (specifically transparency and accountability) were all developed on an assumption of a well-capacitated public sector. To my dismay, the civil service is shunned by fresh young minds. Among the reasons for this is the sheer resistance to change exhibited at nearly every level of government.

The young firebrand wishing to bring entrepreneurial vision to the state machinery must beware the attitude toward such ambition. The experienced office holders tend to look upon ambition with condescension at best or vicious opposition at worst. Yet, their old eyes have seen a



“As a young civil servant, I know I have more to learn at this point in my career than I ever will again.”

lot more than we can imagine. The experienced civil servant has seen the fire of youthful naiveté quenched by the murky waters of systematic corruption. The ageing civil servant recalls their initial hopes of immediate, earth-shaking change and now sees that the most significant shifts are made over decades. Herein lies the lesson for the new entrant to the civil service.

A young public servant with a sophisticated set of qualifications and competencies is able to learn and unlearn at a rapid rate. Our experience, I have heard it said, will be the greatest teacher. Yet now I say to my fellow young active citizens: the experience of our forebearers is just as great a tutor. Lessons learned over years would take us months if we are but patient enough to listen first and contribute second. This lesson I had to be prepared to learn during the transition from graduate to employee; a transition aptly described by my father.

When congratulating me on obtaining my first degree, my father contextualised my career to the sunrise, midday and sunset of life. The first degrees and other qualifi-

cations are obtained in the sunrise years where all the energy of life is merely potential. As the midday sun of life begins to scorch us with bills and other responsibilities, we begin to identify the unique contribution our career makes to fulfil the needs of the society in which we live. The sunset of our lives, my father reckoned, is reserved for us to hand down the positive lessons our successors will need as they begin their journeys. It is at the meeting place between my midday and the sunset of my forebearers in office that I can most clearly identify my contribution to the civil service.

Many of the most senior bureaucrats and officers are full of sunset wisdom and regrets that can make excellent lessons for a midday firebrand like me. However, these lessons are not as neatly packaged or articulated as I am accustomed to. I will not read from a book how best to avoid being enthralled in a corruption scandal. As a young man, I will not sit in the office of an older gentleman and be lectured on how not to be a chauvinistic bigot toward my female colleagues. Usually, the vital lesson is in the

unspoken gesture, the silent testimony and consistent lifestyle choice of a senior officer. How a person values time will be evident from how diligently they keep up with appointments. Whether they value money over public service will be evident in their commitment to follow the least lucrative of instructions.

As a young civil servant, I know I have more to learn at this point in my career than I ever will again. My sunrise skillset coupled with a teachable spirit will enable me to be launched into the proverbial lion's den and the fiery furnaces of government service and emerge without scratch or scathe. Thus, I believe that in the civil service, the role of the young active citizen is to be quick to listen and learn (and unlearn) lessons; slow to speak out of youthful rage and to be enduringly committed to spend oneself executing one's national duty. The rest of the citizenry so eagerly needs this from government. With a long view of the career path, the young active citizen must be willing to put in the time and sacrifice from the outset in order to make the shifts necessary to propel the government machine.

Kangwa-Musole George Chisanga obtained an LLB from Nelson Mandela University in 2013 and a Masters at the University of Cape Town in 2016, focusing on Commercial Law and Mineral Law. After completing his studies, he commenced clerkship at Shamwana & Company and the Ministry of Justice. Since 2017, he has served as part-time lecturer and researcher in Commercial Law at the University of Zambia.



THE PIONEERS

In 2017, the inaugural Leverhulme Mandela Rhodes Doctoral Scholarships (LMRDS) were launched in collaboration with The Leverhulme Trust based in the United Kingdom.

THE PROGRAMME OFFERS two fully funded Scholarships for doctoral study in the UK exclusively for Mandela Rhodes Scholar Alumni. To celebrate the LMRDS's inception, let's get to know its first recipients – Jolynne Mokaya (Kenya & Stellenbosch University, 2016) and Mark John Burke (South Africa & University of Cape Town, 2012).



Jolynne Mokaya

JOLYNNE COMES FROM a noisy but beautiful village in Kisii, Kenya. She loves to cook, travel, read, and watch TV shows. She struggles doing physical exercise, but is passionate about making connections with people from a place of love. Privately, she says, she strives for authentic power, thus working on her spirituality, trying to understand her purpose and continuously seeking God. Professionally, Jolynne is interested in health research, and has a background in Nursing and Epidemiology. She is currently reading for a DPhil in Clinical Medicine at Oxford University.

What inspired you to pursue a career in this field and in what way do you feel you can make a significant contribution? For me to be where I am today, in addition to my hard work, ambition, and resilience, – someone else needed to believe, support and provide me with the opportunity to excel. These opportunities range from having access to quality education, healthcare, and financial security – among other things. Similarly, I want the work I do to create a better environment for others to thrive and be the best version of themselves, so that they can also contribute to the advancement of our continent in their own creative ways. I am convinced that it all begins with being healthy and having access to better healthcare. My dream is that every African is informed and takes necessary precautions to preserve their health.

I believe through my research I can make known the critical gaps in healthcare that are experienced in several African countries. I can support healthcare staff to provide quality care. Additionally, I can raise awareness about various diseases with the aim of creating an environment where those affected can be accepted and supported within their communities.

What new advances in technology and ideas have sprung up in the field of health innovation in Africa? Health innovation exists in Africa and may in certain areas be even quite advanced in comparison to other continents. Two things have made this possible. Firstly, the burden of various diseases as well as weak healthcare institutions in many African countries have created the need to find sustainable solutions. Secondly, the creativity within people on the African continent contributes to introducing innovations. There are a number of health innovations focussing on health care delivery, financing, and training healthcare professionals as well educating members of the public. For me, having the attitude of creating a better life for yourself and others through innovations, without necessarily depending on the government and external aid, is a step toward making things better. Encouraging simple ideas that can address local situations using available resources is empowering.

HER FIVE FAVOURITES

Place to visit: My home in Kisii, Kenya. I have fond memories of my childhood.

Time of the year: June/July. I don't know why, I just feel good and high during these months. I think my body naturally produces ecstasy during this time.

Person in the world (and why): My mother. She loves me unconditionally.

Thing you like doing when no one is watching: When in my room, I dress professionally, and look at myself in the mirror and pretend to be giving a keynote speech as the President of the World Health Organisation in Geneva. (I aspire to be!)

Food/guilty pleasure: Ice cream.



Mark John Burke

AFTER FINISHING HIS time in residence as a Mandela Rhodes Scholar, Mark has had a diverse set of experiences. He graduated from Cambridge with an MPhil in Policy Studies and travelled to more than 30 countries. He also worked across four continents. Mark has spent some time working in venture capital advising startups and sits on the board of three ventures.

He is currently reading toward a PhD in Land Economy at Cambridge University.

Tell us about the field in which you are doing your PhD, Land Economy. What does it entail and what are the implications of this work in the African context where land issues are so complex? Land Economy is a broad, interdisciplinary field looking to combine empirical research with sound quantifiable analysis in order to steer policy formulation across a range of sectors. As an example of this interdisciplinary nature of our research, my reading is informed by work from The Cambridge Centre for Economic and Public Policy, The Cambridge Centre for Housing & Planning Research and The Judge Business School! A lot of my work is focused on econometric analysis of available data to draw additional insights into affordable housing interventions in emerging economies. I am particularly interested in what drives value for the end users of housing; what makes the development of that kind of housing stock sustainable (from a financial, technological innovation and community buy in perspective) as well as how both the public and private sector can participate in initiatives to develop and maintain sustainable, affordable options for low income earners. While the majority of my analysis is focused on emerging economies broadly, partly driven by data availability and accessibility, and as a result is relatively location agnostic, I have made provision for an intentional bias for certain focus areas of interest. One of those naturally includes South Africa. It is a particularly interesting case study of attempting to design policies focused on inclusion and sustainability, while also attempting to deconstruct historical spacial divides along very particular race and

ethnicity lines. While it is early days for me to make an informed assessment of the outcome of my work, I hope that at the very least some of the leading international best practice will have a potential policy implementation back home. Similarly, the clear dissection of “gap housing” as it pertains to low income earners has received significant attention by lawmakers in SA and this is fairly unique, where those outside of rigid brackets reserved for the most vulnerable population is largely ignored globally (including in developed economies such as the US). In an ideal world, South African solutions to pressing problems can inform global approaches as much as we attempt to replicate good solutions from elsewhere in SA.

What are you looking forward to the most about this experience? It is invigorating to be back in the UK. Cambridge is so well resourced; one only needs to worry about academic pursuits. Having all the basics taken care of is such a privilege. I'm very eager about working on an exciting research project with people infinitely smarter than I am.

HIS FIVE FAVOURITES

Place to visit: Corfu, a week before final exams.

Time of the year: Summer.

Person in the world (and why): Barack Obama. I reckon he's so chilled. I would hang out with him any day, all day.

Thing you like doing when no one is watching: Dreaming.

Food/guilty pleasure: Pastéis de Nata are the death of me!



WOMEN ON THE CUTTING EDGE

THOUGHT-LEADERSHIP

Dr Agatha Banga (Zimbabwe & UCT, 2015) argues that women from Africa are in position to resuscitate local surgical fields.

SURGERY HAS BEEN christened “the neglected step child of public health”.¹ Whilst previously, pandemics such as HIV have been tabled for discussion in the global public health arena, little attention and still less funding has been given to considering and prioritising surgery as a noteworthy public health intervention. Initial estimates show that Africa has the highest ratio of disability-adjusted life years per thousand people of any continent, attributable to surgical conditions.² Fortunately for Africa, there are mothers out there who are standing up for this forgotten child. I strongly believe that now, more than ever, we as women are indeed stepping into the role that society desperately needs us to fill.

Traditionally, the surgical profession has been a male-dominated field. This piece does not focus on the debate of whether men or women are the best candidates for this speciality, but recognises the role that women play in society. I strongly believe that professionals need to mirror the social demographic in order to represent the world that we live in. Indeed, just 60 years ago, gender discrimination in America still strongly discouraged women in

surgery.³ However, by 2013, thanks to tireless lobbying, women made up about 40% of surgical specialists in that country.⁴ While this statistic is encouraging, it must be remembered that still far fewer women are completing their surgical training than are completing medical school. The reasons are diverse: factors such as lifestyle choices, real or perceived male domination of various sectors of the medical field, and sustained chauvinism in some cases, mean that women are either boxed into their ‘categories’ or pushed out of the field completely. Every woman who aspires to be in surgical practice, but does not make it as a surgical professional, essentially represents a lost mother to an essential global health intervention.

Paediatric surgery is a surgical subspecialty, dealing specifically with children. In 2015, South Africa had 35 paediatric surgeons for the over 15 million children below the age of 15 years.⁵ These numbers leave the health system woefully inadequately equipped in capacity to deal with all of the surgical cases – which have been predicted to rise in the years to come. The numbers alone tell an incomplete tale of the battles on the ground. Current infant mortality rates vary





“In Africa, women are rising to tackle the imminent and relevant global health crisis of the forgotten stepchild of public health.”

Dr Agatha Bantha grew up in Zimbabwe, and completed Cambridge A levels at Peterhouse Girls' School. She went on to complete pre-medicine at St George's University, Grenada, and graduated with a Bachelor in Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery at the University of Malawi. She holds a Master of Public Health specialising in epidemiology from the University of Cape Town, with a thesis focussed on adolescents. She is currently a paediatric surgery registrar with the University of the Witwatersrand. Outside of work, she is a Student Enterprise Board member at the African Leadership Academy, and a mentor at the MRF.

from 346 to 487 deaths of children under one year of age per thousand live births. Paediatric surgeons (along with obstetric/gynaecological specialists and midwives) will have a major role to play in ensuring children overcome the many difficulties faced along the path to adulthood, that they may be part of the statistics to support the expected worldwide life expectancy increase in the coming decades. Africa as a region is especially in need of champions, mothers, of surgery. With rising birth rates and increased pressure on health systems, it may well take a woman's nurturing touch and her stamina to ensure that the health needs of the next one billion African children are met. Often, for the surgeon, the task is not purely about technical skill. In a diverse setting like that of Africa, it becomes about ability to cope with large workloads, administrative tasks and the prevailing socio-political condition and its symptoms in the healthcare system.

I'll never forget my first day as a trainee in paediatric surgery in

South Africa. Nothing could have prepared me: I walked into a sea of predominantly female registrars, all staring back at me. I also then physically met my first female paediatric surgeon. These moments have probably been some of the most defining moments so far in my journey in training.

It hit me then that here, in Africa, women are rising to tackle the imminent and relevant global health crisis of the forgotten stepchild of public health. I soon got to learn that these women, alongside their male counterparts, formed the backbone of a high performing unit, with everything that any qualified surgeon could offer the children of Africa.

Here, as in many departments across the nation and across the world, women are playing what I see as their rightful role. They are standing up in their rightful place: they are being those mothers and guardians to our most urgent need. My hope is that we as women will have the strength to continue, in whichever role we choose.

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FEATURE STORY

In conversation with...

ANTONIO MACHEVE JR

No doubt one of the MRF's most stylish Alumni, Xipixi founder Antonio Macheve Jr (Mozambique & UCT, 2013) is also one of its most successful entrepreneurs. YAM editor **Coralie Valentyn sat down with him to find out what makes him tick.**

Tell us about yourself, who is Antonio? I'm originally from Mozambique but my upbringing was in three countries: France, Mozambique, and the United States. I've been living in Cape Town now for the past five years. I am a fashion designer and founder of a menswear brand called Xipixi which means cat – because it's a brand that strictly caters to gentlemen, the good looking cats. Overall I just really enjoy life. I enjoy my family and my surroundings; these are the elements that inform my work because my work is based on creativity. My inspiration comes from many things; conversations with great people, long walks, spaces, colours. So really what I like to do is also connected with my line of work.

With regard to my studies, I did a BA in Political Science with a focus on international politics while I was in New York and an MA in Development Studies as a 2013 Mandela Rhodes Scholar at UCT. People usually ask what that has to do with fashion. I always say not much directly, but obviously as a business person, learning international politics taught me a lot about networking, diplomacy and negotiation, being able to read a contract properly and the ability to work in all sorts of environments with different cultures. This has all helped me build a global brand.

Where and how did Xipixi begin? It was during a period of two years' unemployment that

I founded Xipixi because I wasn't able to follow my line of study into my professional career. I started my business with the equivalent of R45; I bought a piece of African cloth and made a pair of shorts which I sold. With the money that I made I was able to make three more pairs and sell those which then multiplied. That's how Xipixi was built. Within my frustration during that two-year period when I was unemployed, while I was looking for jobs I also started applying for scholarships and out of the twelve that I applied for I got rejected for eleven. The twelfth was the Mandela Rhodes Scholarship – the most prestigious of all. That opportunity gave me a little more hope. I went on to invest in the brand and it expanded to include different types of accessories, which led to making sales at conferences, hotels, among friends and acquaintances. Over time I started getting calls from influential people in the fashion industry, people who were interested in my work and now I am the owner of a brand that has been making sales in ten countries, showcasing our work at the Mercedes Benz Fashion Week in Johannesburg and Cape Town. We've also been invited to showcase collections in Oxford, so we're now in the global conversation when it comes to fashion. We are hoping for much more.

Thank you for speaking about failures, because a lot of times people just focus on their success. These are important stories to share – for you, it was in that season that you birthed your business. What are some of the things that you are grappling with in terms of your own growth and development at the moment? So many things. I think I'm naturally a patient person but being in business and having faced so many challenges building the business (and prior to it) has made me even



more patient. Knowing that there is something called timing – not everything happens as we plan, so it's important for us to be mindful of that. I've learned over time that if you plant enough seeds and on a daily basis just water them, then whether it's six or twelve months later, you'll get that call, that opportunity, or you'll go on to achieve whatever goal you had set for yourself.

One of the things that I'm obsessed with is improvement – trying to do better today than I did yesterday and I feel that through patience over time I have been able to improve. And that's made me at peace with a lot of things. If I send out multiple proposals and I only get a few positive responses I'm not going to worry as much as I did in the past, because I now know that there are many no's before a yes comes.

I can imagine that patience has stood you in good stead in this industry, where it's often so cutthroat and everyone is trying to hustle to get the next best deal. If you know it is about timing, you are more likely to take your time and make better decisions. Exactly. I'm a young man with an old soul, building a brand at a time when everything is fast: fashion, social media, the way we consume information. Everything is so fast and, while I sometimes have to move fast, at the same time I want to

reconcile that with some of those old-school principles that I have. And it's tough. There are times when I have plans and a vision for the business and where it should go, and then six different people want to do a project with me; then I need to make a decision and navigate in those spaces appropriately so I don't put myself in a trap. Sometimes you make the wrong decision and end up missing the right opportunity. So you have to make peace with all of those elements – especially when you want to do things the right way: build a brand with values and principles, spread a message and tell a story, create a sense of timelessness when we are very focused on instant gratification. So it's important for people to understand themselves and to listen to their inner voice. There are times when you need to listen to your gut and make a fast decision, but a lot of the time that's not the case.

In the past six years that I've been building the brand, one thing that has also been consolidated within me is this notion of really understanding myself and having a strong sense of self-awareness. Starting a business from the ground, going through various experiences trying to reach mid-level and then high-level, whether it be in terms of impact or financially, takes you through so many





Antonio Macheve Jr receiving a standing ovation after presenting the 2016 S/S Collection at the Mercedes Benz Fashion Week Johannesburg.

experiences where you learn so much about yourself. It also made me very realistic about my goals and objectives and it made me understand that there are certain things that I can do very well and certain things that I can't do.

Once you understand that you slowly start mastering this idea of self-awareness and then you bring people along on the ride with you who can complement you. Focus on the things that you know best – this provides an opportunity for you to work towards excellence and mastery.

Let's speak a little more about Xipixi. You've already shared what inspires you, now can you tell us about your vision for the brand? My long term vision is to make Xipixi the best menswear brand in the world by Africans. The reason why that's one of my greatest objectives is because of the misconception that still exists today in the Western world about Africans only being consumers of world brands but not producers. We consume all types of brands – lifestyle brands,

sports brands – but how many African brands are there being consumed not just by Africans but by the global community? Fortunately in the past five years this has been happening and I'm very happy to be able to call a lot of those who have started young brands my peers – they started around 2010 and are now over time becoming big revelations in the global fashion space. I don't blame us for not having these brands before; we didn't have the tools, the mentality, the education.

I'm sure there was also a lack of African role models which you and other young designers could aspire to be like? Absolutely – because when you see someone who looks like you, who comes from where you come from that does something, that gives you the belief that I can also do that. I've seen that with my brand now – a lot of other brands have been starting in the past few years. People saying that I've inspired them to start a business or open a store. It's beautiful and part of why I want to take it

as far as being a top menswear brand in the world. Because if you have a brand made by Africans that's on the global stage, you have other Africans watching that happen, and then they get that motivation and have access to a network of people who have done it, and failed enough times to know what the steps are for them to also get there.

The other perception I'm trying to challenge is the way Africans are viewed in the western world. There is so much ingenuity in African countries, both in urban centres and rural areas, you have a lot of young people doing genius things it's just that they are not getting the proper exposure or have the right platforms or investment. I often say that deprivation fosters creativity – we are producers and creators and we've been doing it for a long time.

An important thing for us to consider is how economies are changing. They are moving more towards services and a lot of positions that were previously held by people are

now being substituted by machines, so how do we create the jobs for the next generation? What are we going to say when we are 70 years old about the Africa that we could have built at a time when it was changing and turning digital? I want to be a contributor in that conversation – by the virtue of me doing it, I'll firstly be advancing myself and then inspiring others to take that step so that over time there is growth and then it becomes a different conversation that we'll be having.

If you could in one sentence describe your leadership journey with regards to Xipixi, what would it be? My leadership journey has been one of great resilience. It sounds cliché but in reality, it's all about overcoming challenges every day, especially as a leader.

As someone who is successfully navigating the entrepreneurial landscape, what lessons are you learning about the future of fashion on the continent? I'm so excited. Africa is now truly unleashing its potential when it comes to the creative industries, so much that now you have so many international brands wanting to partner with young African creatives. Africans are now travelling all over the world to do photoshoots as models, and as photographers. You have 22-year-old editors of blogs being invited to fashion weeks in Europe to collaborate. There are now a lot of African stylists working with international celebrities and African celebrities. So it's filled with immense possibilities and I'm very excited. Whether that be in South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, which are some of the biggest markets, or even countries like Mozambique, Angola, and Tanzania – we have so many ambassadors for brands today. Global African superstars that that you can dress and work with and that have



The Macheves. (Photographer: Milton Mayz)

an amazing following, so that we no longer need to depend on Hollywood celebrities to showcase our work.

What are some of the challenges or stumbling blocks that could hinder these possibilities from coming to fruition? It's a question of making the right choices. It comes back to this idea of patience in order to make the right decisions and that's where we are going to need support in leadership development because a lot of young people are becoming very influential at a very early stage. For example, we have 19 year-olds who have thousands of followers on social media, who have started a blog and have fans from around the world but they face all sorts of issues associated with running a brand or business. So we need a lot of help in terms of supporting the building of this backbone that is building an enterprise. To me it was a trial and error process and I'm still learning. It's very important that we also have structures within the African context to help people build businesses that can grow over time. There is a lot of self-help available out there but having that practical one-on-one human interaction is very

important. Whenever I have the opportunity to sit with someone who has more experience, I always pick their brain and ask them lots of questions, try to understand these processes. You can't stop the amount of creativity and self-expression that's coming out of Africa and businesses being built but at the same time I think there needs to be that support system for a lot of these young brands – including mine.

What advice do you have for aspiring African entrepreneurs, particularly those who are in creative spaces? Speak your truth. Really let your inner voice speak out and let it be manifested through whatever creations you bring out to the world. Make sure to be authentic because authenticity is what excites the viewers, clients and audience and it's what makes your work different from what they have seen before.

More specifically about being in the entrepreneurial space: get excited, the time is now. Your age doesn't matter. If you are truly passionate and you want to make that contribution you need to find that gap in the market that needs to be filled which is one of the things that I did. Xipixi is my contribution.



Centenary Tributes

TO

TATA MADIBA

As we celebrate Nelson Mandela's centenary, Mandela Rhodes Alumni from across the continent pay tribute to our patron.

THANK YOU FOR teaching me how to be patient when it comes to reconciliation. We live in trying times, particularly in a difficult environment. And those lessons of patience, and facing challenges with a reconciliatory spirit, I think, have held me in good stead over the last couple of years and I thank you for your legacy.

Chet Fransch (Zimbabwe & SUN, 2006)

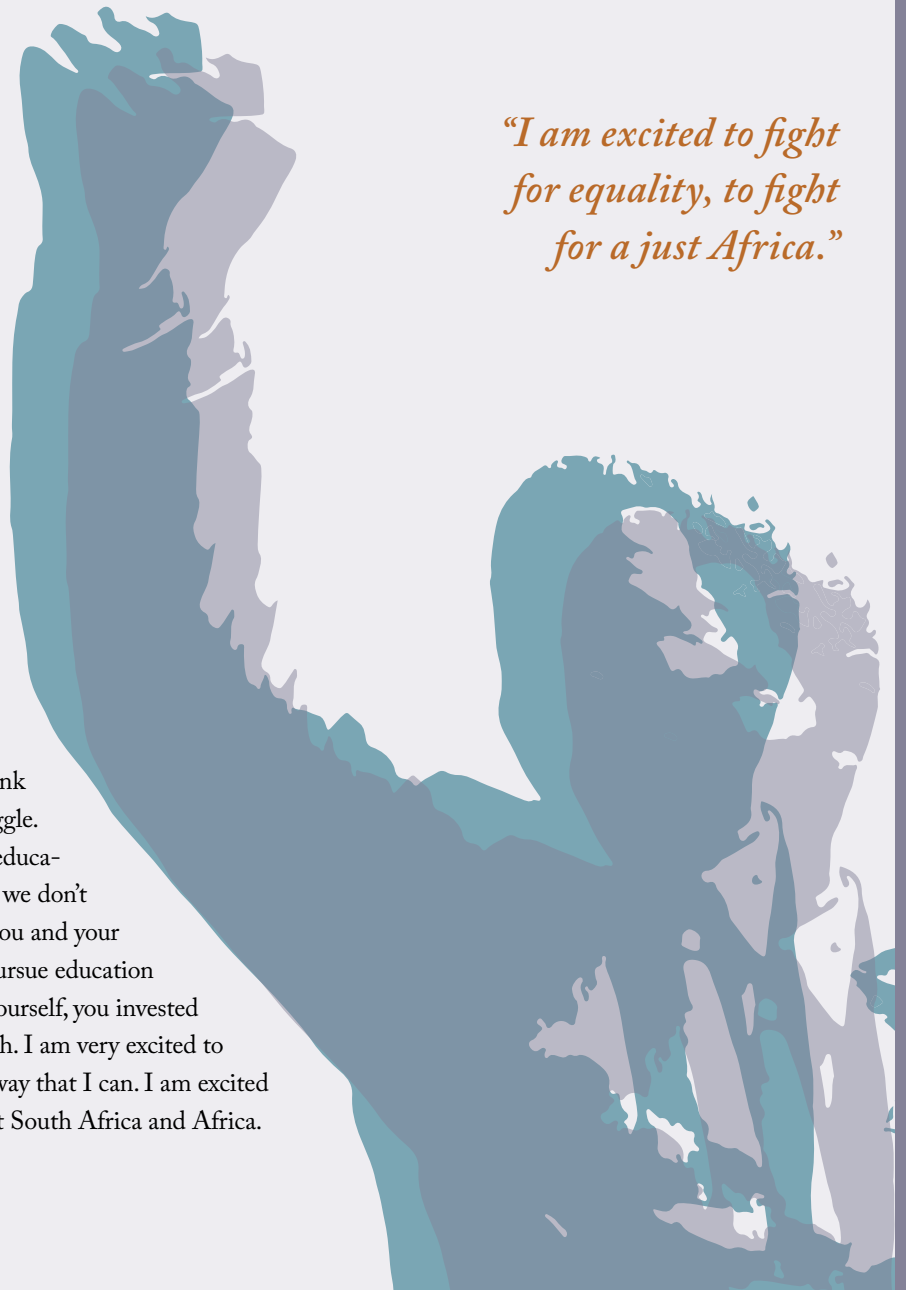
WE APPRECIATE AND celebrate Nelson Mandela and all his sacrifices, not only for South Africa, but for the rest of the continent and the world. He agreed to put his name next to Rhodes in order to create an organisation that will champion change on the African continent. We now promise to do the work. We appreciate the training we are getting from the MRF – it is really impactful and helpful. We promise to do our part in building our own legacies. Change will only come from us. It is time for us young people to move forward with the work Madiba started.

Moses Ogutu (Kenya & UCT 2017)

THANK YOU FOR paving the way. Thank you for being committed to the struggle. Thank you for being a champion of education. Because of what you have done we don't have to make the same sacrifices as you and your comrades. We are here and able to pursue education because instead of just investing in yourself, you invested in the African continent and its youth. I am very excited to carry on your legacy in the smallest way that I can. I am excited to fight for equality, to fight for a just South Africa and Africa.

Poloko Mosesi (South Africa & RU, 2017)

"I am excited to fight for equality, to fight for a just Africa."



ON THIS SPECIAL centenary of our patron, uTata Nelson Mandela, uSopitsho, uVela Bambhentsele, uYem-Yem, I just want to say we miss your sense of humour and we are reminded of your commitment to justice and fairness and your commitment to making this country what it is today. As this generation we take the baton from wherever you are and we carry it forward. Thank you for inspiring us and for your spirit of humility.

Siyanda Qoto (South Africa & NMU, 2017)

IF I COULD say anything to Nelson Mandela, thank you would be the first thing, not only for the opportunity of the Mandela Rhodes Scholarship, which broadened my horizons in ways that I cannot describe, ever, and not only educationally but also in the sense of understanding more about the people around me, the history of our country and also helping me to find my feet. I would also say thank you to broader South Africa, there were a lot of people who made sacrifices and I don't know how one says thank you for paving the way. There's still a lot of work to be done and that is something for the next generation. But thank you for showing us how to put ourselves in other people's shoes and teaching us lessons about compassion, justice and for standing up for what you believe in. Those are priceless lessons that we can all strive towards.

Elnari Potgieter (South Africa & SUN, 2012)

MY TRIBUTE TO our patron Mr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela is thank you for everything you have done for us. You have set up Africa for success by investing in young people and setting the example for what is necessary to become a leader who is going to benefit Africa today and in the future. Thank you so much Tata.

Ancha Bulunga (Swaziland & RU, 2017)

MY MESSAGE TO Madiba is a big thank you. As I have gotten older and have travelled more of the world, I have started to appreciate the tremendous legacy that he has, not only in South Africa but also abroad. As I redefine myself as a white South African I am constantly inspired by how he has propelled our country into being a formidable force.

Richard Burman (South Africa & UCT, 2015)

IT'S NOT EVERY day you get to come across a man who is willing to lay down his life for what he believes in, let alone his country. Nelson Mandela is a person who did just that. I feel humbled and honored to get to experience his legacy being a Mandela Rhodes Scholar, and this stems from his efforts. It would have been really humbling to meet him and shake his hand; rarely do you get to meet people who have changed the world.

Yamikani Chinamale (Malawi & Wits, 2017)

IF I WAS to say anything to Nelson Mandela it would be to thank him for being an exemplary inspirational leader and human being who could connect with people on so many levels. I would like to thank him for being brave enough to take on the mantle to lead post-apartheid South Africa.

Iris Nxumalo (South Africa & UP, 2014)

MY TRIBUTE MESSAGE to tata Mandela is that I feel so much gratitude for his legacy. I feel so blessed being a part of a programme like this, and being able to live out his legacy is one of the most humbling and honourable things I could do.

Mpilo Shabangu (South Africa & Wits, 2017)

MY MESSAGE TO uTata is thank you for your vision. Your name will forever be remembered because of your contribution to society, the continent and the world.

Tulani Nkuntse (South Africa & NMMU, 2014)

THE CONCEPT OF an interconnected Africa with heads of states, with business leaders, with policy makers talking to each other, I think that vision is being achieved and that vision was birthed by Madiba's conception of developing leaders on the continent. The vision of Cape to Cairo is coming along, and that concept will be readily realized on the African continent with its young people coming out of university and becoming entrepreneurs. And again that is thanks to Mandela and what he did, and what he started. I would have wanted to see more, but I think that was the baton being passed on.

Siseko Kumalo (South Africa & RU, 2017)





PROFILES

Tales of

African

EXCELLENCE

Join three Alumni as they recount their journeys after their years in Residence and the milestones they reached along the way.



Candice Thikeson South Africa & University of the Free State, 2016

THERE HAVE BEEN a number of exciting highlights in my personal and professional journey over the past two years. Shortly after receiving the Mandela Rhodes Scholarship in 2016, I was invited to be part of the Brightest Young Minds (BYM) summit. Annually, BYM brings together 100 of Africa’s most innovative young leaders, to develop solutions to some of the continent’s biggest challenges. I also had the privilege of travelling to the African Union in Ethiopia, and various cities in England and Scotland (in November and December of 2016) as the University of the Free State’s recipient of the Abe Bailey Bursary. Every year the bursary is awarded to one senior student or junior lecturer per university. At the time that I accepted the bursary I was a Masters student, but I was appointed as a junior lecturer in the Department of Art History and Image Studies at the University of the Free State soon after my return.

I am also the first and only academic of colour to be employed in my department and one of a handful of

art historians in the country. In 2017 I had the honour of being chosen as one of the *Mail and Guardian’s* 200 Young South Africans in the Arts and Entertainment category.

In addition to my academic work, I have been invited to be part of various panel discussions with artists such as Ntsiki Mazwai and Penny Siopis. I also opened a touring exhibition of the Standard Bank Young Artist Mohau Modisakeng, titled *Lefa La Ntate*, and was featured on SABC News for an interview I did about the relevance and complexities of his exhibition. Moreover, I was nominated to serve as a member of the Johannesburg Stegmann Art Gallery’s advisory committee, which makes decisions concerning the administration and management of the gallery, prospective projects and new acquisitions.

I love that the work I do is an intersection between academia, engaging with artists and art administration. At present, I am working towards realising my dream of becoming a professor of art history and an independent curator.

Emmanuel Nibishaka

Rwanda & Nelson Mandela University, 2011

AFTER MY TIME as a Mandela Rhodes Scholar in Residence, I served as a Researcher in the International Politics Programme at the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation SADC regional office in Johannesburg, South Africa. I researched and analysed political developments in African and South African Politics and Foreign Policy, Regional Development, Conflict Management and Peacekeeping in Africa. My career debut was at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) as Researcher in the Security Sector Governance Programme (SSG) and later in the Peace Missions Programme, where I co-ordinated the activities of the ACOC (African Conference of Commandants). I then served as the First Councillor at the Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the United Nations in New York as an expert on UN thematic issues including, Peace and Security in Africa, Protection of Civilians, Responsibility to Protect, Human Rights and Humanitarian issues. I also served as an alternate Political Co-ordinator during Rwanda's tenure of non-permanent Security Council (2013-2014); and as a lead research-

er on a consultancy basis in the Rwandapedia Project, tasked to compile policies and political achievements of the Government of Rwanda since 1994. In September 2017 I was appointed the Secretary General of the National Human Rights Commission of the Republic of Rwanda by President Paul Kagame.

I hold a Bachelors degree in International Studies, a Bachelors (Honours) Degree in International Relations – both from the University of Pretoria in South Africa – a Certificate in Conflict Analysis from the United States Institute of Peace, Washington DC; an Honours Certificate in Law & Practice of the United Nations from New York University (USA); a Masters in Conflict Management and Transformation (with a focus on the nexus between mineral resources and the proliferation of armed groups in the DRC) as well as a Doctorate in International Politics with a focus on security and conflict management (Nelson Mandela University, 2017). I was a visiting scholar at Columbia School of International Political Affairs while completing my doctoral studies.

Iris Nxumalo

South Africa & University of Pretoria, 2014

FOLLOWING MY YEAR in residence as a Mandela Rhodes Scholar in 2014, I completed my MSc in African Studies at the University of Oxford (St. Antony's College) as a Chevening Scholar.

During my time at Oxford, I was awarded the Winihin Jemide Series Research Grant for Women in Politics and Government, the Dahrendorf Scholarship for the Study of Freedom and selected for the Springboard Programme for Masters Students. I was then recruited as the sole Peace, Security and Development Women Fellow for 2016-2017 at the African Leadership Centre, dually based in London and Nairobi. In this role, I supported research and policy analysis in the areas of Women Peace and Security (WPS), memory and peacebuilding, peace processes in South Sudan, the humanitarian crisis in the Lake Chad Basin region and gender and violent extremism. I was voted the Most Influential Student in the Leadership and Society MSc class I audited as a Women Fellow.

This was followed by an internship at the UN Wom-

en Nigeria Country Office, where I provided research, analytical, communications and technical support to the Office of the UN Women Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS and the Women Peace and Security Programme Team.

I am currently an Innovation Manager at The DG Murray Trust, and utilise intersectional strategic investments as a tool to drive organisational and public innovation for inclusion, justice and development in South Africa. I am also a member of the inaugural cohort of the Zanele Mbeki Fellowship, which seeks to build a new generation of transformative feminist leadership on the continent.

These experiences have advanced my commitment to utilise transformative forms of knowledge to advance gendered notions of peace, security and development in Africa; by positioning myself at the intersections of development programming, policy analysis, knowledge production, strategic consultancy, mentorship and advocacy.



As with most great scholarship programmes, Alumni of the Mandela Rhodes Scholarship go on to live and work in many places around the world. What makes the MRF unique are the Pan-African networks and communities formed by our Alumni, which extend – if you'll forgive this phrase just once – from Cape to Cairo. After nearly 15 years, the Foundation has stretched across many parts of Africa. Let's meet some of the Young Africans making a difference throughout their home continent.



Patrick Ebewo

Nigeria & Tshwane University of Technology, 2012
Masters: Entrepreneurship

IN FEBRUARY 2017, I obtained my Doctoral degree in Business Administration with a specialisation in Entrepreneurship. I hold multiple degrees and diplomas in the fields of business, commerce, entrepreneurship and management studies. During the past ten years, I have gained experience working closely with relevant public and private enterprises in the development and moderation of entrepreneurship initiatives that are improving and sustaining the livelihood of individuals

and communities. Among others, I pioneered the establishment of the Arts (Business) Incubator at Tshwane University of Technology – South Africa (2014) and was also instrumental in the successful establishment of the TUT/UNESCO Chair on Cultural Policy and Sustainable Development for Southern Africa. I am currently the Founder and Executive Chairperson of Bopangpeo Business Accelerator, a registered non-profit company in South Africa that facilitates support through entrepreneurial education and capacity building to implement various sustainable initiatives in achieving the African Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals in the areas of poverty eradication, food security and sustainable energy solutions. Through Bopangpeo, I am involved in the development of various Municipal Renewable Energy Plans. These include proposing solutions that utilise technology that produce renewable energy (such as BioGas, SynGas and Synthetic Diesel) from municipal wastewater treatment work and sludge treatment that address climate change.



Luzelle Yon Lestrade

Namibia & Stellenbosch University, 2006
Masters: Public Policy Management

I WAS 22 years old, with a fresh Masters in hand and just under two years' working experience when I landed a dream opportunity to work with the United Nations in South Africa. I heard the UN had a UNICEF office stationed in Cape Town, and bold as I have always been I submitted my CV without there being any available vacancies at the time. Then, in August 2008 I got a call from a representative from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. They were looking for a field assistant to help deliver relief and protection in the wake of the massive xenophobic attacks that rocked the nation. They had got my CV from UNICEF and were interested in interviewing me. I landed the job. And nine years later I am still here. I have since worked in four different capacities and for two different UN agencies over these years. Most of my work has involved working with refugees on issues of migration, development and social protection. I currently coordinate UNHCR's community services programme in South Africa. We implement projects directly and indirectly in communities, with government

and NGO partners. This kind of work changes you, and every person decides whether it will be for the better or worse. I have seen the most amazing journeys of resilience, hope and faith. And conversely, I have also seen the darkest sides of humanity through my work. All of this, I believe, has humbled and strengthened me. I wouldn't exchange the last nine years for anything else. I am grateful and I still live only to make a difference, one life at a time.



Lorato Modongo

Botswana & Stellenbosch University, 2014
Masters: Research Psychology

AFTER MY YEAR in Residence, I participated in a number of youth-led projects. The one I would like to highlight is the BreakingDownBorders Africa Initiative, which enables African youth to connect and collaborate towards the prosperity of the continent, while simultaneously documenting our stories. The 2017 tour went to 10 countries including Botswana (for which I was a host). At the end of the tour, a summit was hosted in Johannesburg, connecting some 60 young leaders from 15 African countries. The project will tour five more countries in 2018, and the summit will be an annual event for youth to influence policy and #BreakDownBorders.

"I still live only to make a difference."



Elnari Potgieter

South Africa & Stellenbosch University, 2012
Masters: International Studies

I WORK AT the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) in Cape Town – an independent NGO. The IJR works to build fair, democratic and inclusive societies across Africa after conflict. My work is mostly focussed on South Africa's reconciliation process, as I am the project leader for the South African Reconciliation Barometer (SARB) – a national public survey. In this position, I wear many hats – mostly as project manager, researcher and data analyst – working with colleagues on addressing, thinking, engaging with and writing about various societal questions and challenges in South Africa. This includes among others: reconciliation, lived experiences of inequalities, democratic political culture and social cohesion. I continuously learn and gain new insights in this role, as I come across and engage with a variety of insights and perspectives on a broad spectrum of topics on a daily basis. It requires one to frequently put oneself in another's shoes.





Noella Moshi

Tanzania & University of Cape Town, 2011
Masters: Immunology

I MOVED TO Lagos in 2015 to be part of the energy of the largest city in Africa. Even before I arrived I was in love with the bright, spicy, loud, Nigerian culture. When I got here, I felt this energy concentrated in this 20-million strong city. I work as the Program Lead for WAVE, where we increase incomes for unemployed youth by training and connecting them to entry level jobs where they can earn while they learn. We have trained more than 1,600 youth and connected them to economic opportunities with more than 200 employers. In parallel, we advocate for change in the education-to-employment ecosystem by helping employers find what they really want; i.e. competencies, not credentials. WAVE is based in Yaba, fondly referred to as the 'silicon valley' of Lagos. Yaba has an exciting culture of entrepreneurship. Almost everyone I've met here has a 'side-hustle' or passion project that they are pursuing in parallel to their day job. I have the opportunity to discuss ideas for social enterprises almost daily. My work has nothing to do with what I studied in school (a Masters in Clinical Science), but I'm still really glad I did my Masters because it gave me the opportunity to join the Mandela Rhodes Community. I plan to work at WAVE for the foreseeable future.



Qhelile Nyathi

Zimbabwe & U. of KwaZulu-Natal, 2011
Honours: Financial Mathematics

AFTER MY HONOURS studies, I went on to do a Masters in African Studies and a Masters in Statistical Research at the University of Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship. I am now based in Harare, working on community development projects as a member of Junior Chamber International. In 2015 I did some research into Greenwood Park, an eight-hectare park located in a residential suburb on the outskirts of Harare's CBD. The park had deteriorated due to limited resources available for maintenance. There was no waste management system to talk of and the water system, toilets, and kids playground were broken. In 2016 I put together a team of fellow JCI City Zimbabwe members to form the Fix-Up Greenwood Park Project, to rehabilitate the park and to increase the overall wellbeing of the community. We have installed a new borehole, fitted seven hydrants for watering and landscaped several sites with succulent plants, beginning to transition the park into a water-wise landscape. We have installed 22 bins and are working on a recycling arrangement. Next up we are looking at resurfacing the footpath and repairing the kids' playground and toilets. The project was funded through the Global Youth Empowerment Fund as well as a golf tournament and contributions from donors.



Shabeerah Ramkhalawon

Mauritius & NMMU, 2013
Masters: Pharmacy

BEING BACK IN Mauritius after seven eventful years spent in South Africa has been rewarding. I am now working as Senior Pharmacist for the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life at a regional hospital. As head of the pharmacy, I ensure that the service delivered is excellent and there are adequate stocks of medications to satisfy the needs of the patients, thus contributing to the provision of health care to the public. With an interest in antibiotic stewardship, my aim is to work in collaboration with doctors to rationalise antibiotic prescription and develop antibiotic guidelines for the hospital. Having completed an online training course offered by Ohio State University, I am writing articles to spread awareness of the role of pharmacists in antibiotic stewardship. My future projects include pursuing a PhD with Professor Sabiha Essack who is an expert consultant on antimicrobial resistance for WHO Africa. Reflecting on my Residence and subsequent journey, I can say that the principles of Leadership, Entrepreneurship, Education and Reconciliation are embedded in my role as a government pharmacist, and that I strongly believe in Nelson Mandela's motto: 'Education is the most powerful weapon with which you can change the world.'



Sheetal Vallabh

South Africa & U. of Cape Town, 2007
Masters: Clinical Psychology

I'VE HAD THE privilege of being able to use my professional qualifications and experience as an attorney and a psychologist to establish an NGO. It is estimated that a woman is raped every 26 seconds in South Africa. Outside of a warzone, South Africa has the highest rates of violence against women in the world. Given the enormity of this statistic (amongst others), my colleagues and I identified a significant gap in service delivery that needed urgent attention: while many organisations engage in high-level advocacy, few organisations provide direct support services to victims. In 2011, we formally founded Lawyers against Abuse to provide free integrated legal services and psychosocial support to victims of gender-based violence. LvA is one of the only organisations in South Africa offering responsive, community-based, and integrated services to help victims seek justice and support them through the healing process. In 2014, LvA opened its pilot centre in Diepsloot, an informal settlement with a rate of gender-based violence that is more than double the national average. By focussing our efforts in a single community, LvA is able to not only assist individual victims, but also have a systemic impact by building relationships with local state actors and educating community members to stop cycles of violence for future generations.



Tumelo Moreri

Botswana & U. of Cape Town, 2014
Masters: Statistical Sciences

HAVING BEEN OFFERED this life-changing gift, I returned to Botswana in 2016 after my year in Residence with a commitment to recreate the MRF experience for youth in Botswana. Out of this commitment was born a project called Afrika Ithute, whose mandate is to facilitate a process of healing and reconciliation on the African continent and build leadership capacity within African communities – with the overall aim being to facilitate personal healing on a large scale. Afrika Ithute's mandate is realised through training in self-leadership, career and entrepreneurship development. These components have been packaged into the Budding Lead Program and the Rising Lead Program for senior secondary school and tertiary students, respectively. Currently in its second year of operation, the project is bearing phenomenal results for our youthful participants, many of whom have shared just how life-changing the process has been for them. This project continues to inspire me and renew my hope in humanity. It truly is a privilege for me to continuously witness and facilitate the mending of broken hearts, dreams and spirits. Afrika Ithute has become a project of hope and a platform for renewing humanity's strength and faith in itself. I remain grateful for the initial seed of human reconciliation that was planted in me by the MRF.



Sumaiyya Thawer

Tanzania & U. of Cape Town, 2013
Masters: Clinical Laboratory Science

AFTER COMPLETING MY Masters, I went to the UK on a Commonwealth Shared Scholarship to pursue a Masters degree in Public Health at Imperial College London. Thereafter, I returned to my home town in Tanzania to work in the health sector. My broad interests lie in getting involved with projects focussed on the implementation of effective strategies for disease prevention. Currently, I work in the Monitoring and Evaluation Department of the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute in Dar-es-salaam. My work involves providing various supportive roles for malaria surveillance and response activities to the National Malaria Control Program. Malaria is a huge public health challenge and is one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in Tanzania. Despite being faced with various challenges, a continuous integrated approach to malaria control offers exciting possibilities of transitioning the country's malaria profile from a stage of malaria control towards sustained control and, eventually, to pre-elimination.



Three propositions for SA civil society in the next decade

GETTING TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER

by Janet Jobson (South Africa & RU, 2006)

As South Africa enters the long lead up to our fifth provincial and national elections in 2019, we will begin to take stock of how far we have come in 25 years of democracy. The story is a mixed one, and it is too easy to reduce such a complex journey into a simple narrative of success or failure. Few nations have embarked on the journey we are on – there are few examples to draw on, few easy lessons to learn. This is a road we are making as we walk it.

ELECTIONS TEND TO turn our attention to government as if it were the sole arbiter of the outcomes and nature of our journey. Yet there is a powerful force that is too rarely acknowledged but has played a crucial part in defining our journey – civil society. Civil society's work is often overlooked in the story we tell ourselves as a nation. The names we remember are political parties and leaders; labour unions and large protest marches. But the thousands of community-based organisations, educational NGOs and solidarity movements that sought not just political emancipation, but human flourishing are often missing.

As we transitioned to democracy, the leaders of these organisations moved into government. That had been the goal after all – to achieve a democratic government that would provide a better life for all. The

funders from the north moved their finances into government budget support, and so civil society started to rely predominantly on government and corporate funding. The solidarity networks began to move into new countries – we were a democracy; the goal had been achieved and after our first couple of elections we were classified a stable one.

Nearly 25 years into democracy, civil society now finds itself in a difficult situation. It is made up of thousands of organisations holding together the fragile threads of our social fabric, but often competing with each other for scarce resources. It is a vocal opponent of the State's failures and abuses, and also the delivery mechanism of the State's statutory obligations. If it is to claim its rightful powerful place as an equal partner in defining the trajectory of South Africa, there are three key things it must do:

1. Reclaim our central purpose as the well-spring of social innovation.

Social innovation and social entrepreneurship are currently in vogue in business schools, and funding competitions around the world. Often, business schools position social innovation as a process by which NGOs and actors for social good adopt business practices to solve challenging development questions. What we forget in this approach to innovation as a 'new' concept, is that civil society has always been the wellspring of large-scale social innovation.

Many societal changes are often driven by new technologies (think the steam engine, electricity, and the internet); and/or new societal norms (think feminism, racial justice, and workers' rights). While often the private sector has excelled at developing the former and governments' role is to codify the latter, it is civil society



A 2012 housing protest in front of the Cape Town High Court. (Photograph: Pierre F. Lombard)



that usually pushes the frontier of adapting the former for public good, and driving the development of new norms which eventually get codified.

The most common South African example of civil society-led innovation is that of the large-scale ARV plan. This example is powerful because on the one hand there were profit-seeking drug companies that had developed life-saving anti-retrovirals (ARVs); on the other hand a government reticent to take the risk of implementation. In this toxic mix it was civil society that began importing and administering ARVs, while also pushing the State – through mass mobilisation and litigation – to act. Importantly, while there were significant individual organisations involved in this process, it was also a broad coalition of doctors, service delivery organisations, lawyers, and activists. This is a crucial piece of the

innovation puzzle – civil society organisations fall into the trap of seeing themselves either as social justice, or service delivery vehicles alone. They miss the opportunity to claim their true mandate: to innovate the large-scale societal wide shifts through unlikely networks and coalitions that both demonstrate and demand change.

2. Demonstrate change and shape the debate.

In South Africa we see demonstrations every day – protests erupt about every facet of failed service delivery by the State. But civil society can play an interesting role in shifting how we demonstrate. Civil society is well-positioned to develop and test approaches to solving tough challenges, where governments' universal mandate and large scale make it difficult to do so. Often, NGOs focus only on running their programmes as they are

– rather than thinking through what their programmes might demonstrate for bigger systems.

An interesting example is the partnership between Ilifa Labantwana, Innovation Edge, the Network Action Group and the Department of Social Development (DSD) focussed on improving the systems by which 40 000 early childhood development (ECD) centres in South Africa are assessed and registered by the Department. By drawing on factory-style workflow boards for inspiration, the partnership developed low-tech visual workflow boards to hang in local DSD offices, so that social workers and administrative staff could better see at what point of the process each ECD centre was getting stuck and act accordingly. Each player brought particular skills into the mix and the result has been a rapid improvement in the processing time



“South Africa is fundamentally shaped by the social and structural dynamics that underpin our lives.”

Janet Jobson is Deputy Chief Executive Officer at the DG Murray Trust, where she is spearheading their work to enable all young people to get their first decent job. This work includes commissioning new innovations to tackle some of the contributing factors that lead to our high youth unemployment rate, such as preventing school drop outs, connecting TVET colleges to local industry to improve certification rates, and using new technologies to broaden access to critical information about pathways to employment.

Author’s note: Some inspiration for this piece was drawn from a talk by Nomvula Dlamini (ED of the CDRA) at the DGMT Fellowship for Organisational Innovation in March 2018.

for registrations, and a huge morale and financial boost for the sector. Had these partners simply demanded improved processing times from DSD officials they would have been unlikely to succeed. Instead they demonstrated how to shift the system – through practical, hands-on approaches, trust-building and hard work. To truly achieve radical shifts in human outcomes over the next 10 years, we must balance our instinct to demand change from the state, with the hard work of demonstrating how to achieve this change.

3. Focus on the underlying social dynamics that shape human outcomes both outside and inside our organisations.

South Africa is fundamentally shaped by the social and structural dynamics that underpin our lives. However, in delivering programmes and initiatives we often ignore these dynamics. Failing to confront them, however, means we will never achieve the outcomes we seek.

Many education programmes, for example, fail to spend enough time building trust between insiders and outsiders often defined by geography and race. Programmes don’t get to the heart of people’s incentives, desires, misgivings, and wounds. Yet it is precisely these factors that are usually at play in any programme’s failure (or success). I have seen many evaluations that find a wide variety of outcomes, often concluding that the results depended on a key person, and their engagement with a community/group. While it is important to take into account, and to work with, the social dynamics that shape programme outcomes, we also need to

work with these social dynamics inside our organisations. The most obvious points of transformation are in the racial and gender make-up of our organisations. But just getting the staff statistics ‘right’ is not the same as ensuring that organisations are, and are being experienced, as transforming and transformative. In their work on ‘inscaping’ Professor Warren Nilsson and Tana Paddock describe how generative organisational practices are often the root of truly transformative social change. Their work focusses specifically on asking how organisations’ internal functioning can match their intended external social purpose. Too often in the constant hustle for funding, and to sustain operations, NGOs can become tough environments in which to work. Taking time to ask whether we are truly sites of generative transformative practices internally, rather than just in the change we produce in the world, is crucial if we are to live up to our mandate.

Civil society is on a precipice in South Africa – but, as the famous saying goes, one should never waste a good crisis. If we can truly reclaim our mandate as the heart of social innovation, demonstrate and shape the debate through our grounded experience, tackle the toxic social dynamics of South Africa and become sites of transformation we will define a bright and positive trajectory for the country. This requires us to be alert and positive, to step forward boldly with heart and bright eyes, and to bring our expertise and experience in new forms and formations to show what is possible for the next decade of our development.



Aspire to Be!

ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT THROUGH THE YEARS

Many Mandela Rhodes Scholars have contributed to the Foundation's vision of building exceptional leadership in Africa by getting involved in our activities.

THROUGH THEIR CONTINUED commitment, we have seen a growth in the MRF's Alumni offerings and been inspired to further deepen our engagements with Alumni as a Foundation.

By adding new opportunities for Alumni to share and connect – not just with the current Class but also each other – we seek to create spaces in which MR Scholars can grapple with the challenges and opportunities in

their respective fields and contribute to broader societal discourse. In this section we will hear from two Alumni in the education space addressing the crucial issue of literacy. We also feature Workshop contributors, who reflect on their experiences, and Alumni who have taken part in the Selection Committees share their insights.

Thank you to everyone who continues to keep the Madiba Magic alive!

MENTORS



Athambile Masola

South Africa & Rhodes University, 2010

I DECIDED TO participate in the Mentoring Programme because I value forming relationships with young Scholars. My recent mentoring relationship has been a lesson in listening, honesty and vulnerability. My mentee and I have shared stories in order to know each other better and I have had to listen carefully to what she has shared about her life, work and future ambitions. It has been inspiring listening to her grapple with life right now while remaining very hopeful about the future.



Roné McFarlane

South Africa & University of Cape Town, 2014

I WAS A Mentor in 2015 and 2016 and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The Mentorship Programme is a great way to establish relationships between different Cohorts within the MRF family. Because MRF draws such excellent Scholars, my experience has been that the relationship was more one of sharing and bouncing ideas off each other than a mentorship relationship in the traditional sense of the word. It is wonderful that MRF is finding these ways to keep us connected to the family – a truly enriching experience!



LITERACY: *The key to a better education*

by Athambile Masola and Roné McFarlane

IT IS HARD to remember the magic of the first time we were able to understand the meaning of a couple of letters on a page, but it was a defining moment in the lives of everyone who can read this article. Learning to read opened up an entire new world of possibilities, ideas and imagination. Reading forms the foundation of further learning and is a major determinant of our success later on. Yet it is a gift that remains inaccessible to a large part of South African society.

A devastating 78% of South Africa's Grade 4 learners cannot read for meaning, according to the latest results from the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS). This is a travesty, especially when considering the language shift from mother tongue to English that many learners need to make once they reach Grade 4. After Grade 4, learners also switch from learning to read, to reading to learn. If they cannot read at this point, it is virtually impossible not only to learn, but also to catch up on the literacy skills they have missed in the foundation phase.

On top of the difficulties of teaching reading, teachers in poor and mostly black communities have to deal with the challenging socio-economic context in which they and their learners find themselves. PIRLS results show that learners' home environments are strongly associated with reading achievement. Learners from low-income communities are more likely to arrive at school with a backlog – the organisation Early Inspiration estimates that five million learners in poor families don't have access to early learning services.

There is no silver bullet to solving these challenges.

What we know is that children learn to love reading and storytelling long before they enter their first classroom. Children who regularly read and hear engaging stories in a language they understand are likely to be more motivated to learn to read and write. It is crucial that parents are aware of the importance of reading with their children from an early age. Reading with a child is also a critical contribution that any one of us can make.

When children do enter the education system, it is important that their teachers are equipped with the necessary skills to teach reading and writing. Gaps in teacher competencies did not arise overnight; this is one

“A devastating 78% of South Africa’s Grade 4 learners cannot read for meaning.”



of the many stubborn legacies of apartheid where teacher education was stratified along race and class lines. On the one hand equipping teachers is the responsibility of universities and colleges, but the national Department of Basic Education's Early Grade Reading Study has also highlighted the importance of continuous on-the-job training. Training and supporting teachers in the context where they teach is expensive, but crucial, especially for teachers in poor communities.

We also need more young people to seriously consider joining the teaching profession as there is a dire need for capacity, especially in poor schools. An example of such work is Literacy in our Lifetime, a special interest group focussed on the issue of literacy, which brings together young researchers, teachers and activists to think carefully about how the future of literacy can change in South Africa.

The clarion call to support early childhood development has been made loudly, but more needs to be done to ensure that children from poor backgrounds are not vulnerable to dropping out of school. Across the world, researchers and teachers are finding solutions to ensure that children are able to read at the appropriate levels in order to thrive in their education and lifelong learning. It is not impossible for South Africa to achieve the same improvements in literacy as India, Brazil and countries in Sub-Saharan Africa with similar challenges.

As young leaders we must take on this challenge. We can ensure literacy in our lifetime!



Aspire to Be!

WORKSHOP CONTRIBUTORS



Kenechukwu Ikebuaku

Nigeria & University of the Western Cape, 2014

I CONSIDERED MY invitation to speak at the Mid-year Workshop (2015) as an opportunity to continue my own journey of reconciliation. I, along with two other Scholars, spoke in the session titled ‘Africa Unpacked’. The preparation process offered me time to reflect on Nigeria and on my identity as a Nigerian at a time when the country’s quest for unity and development was being marred by ethnoreligious tensions. Both the presentations and Q&A session were deeply engaging, enlightening and reassuring. Moreover, I had the chance to connect with the Class of 2015.

More recently, during the Completion Workshop (2017), I was given the privilege to share on Entrepreneurship and African Development. As an entrepreneurship development scholar, this is an area I am very passionate about. I deeply enjoyed the experience, and I had the chance to engage with the Class of 2017. It’s always good to be home.



Rachel Nyaradzo Adams

Zimbabwe & University of Cape Town, 2006

WHY DO GOOD people become bad leaders? This was the question that had taken permanent residence in my mind when I was asked to facilitate a workshop for the Class of 2017. Across the globe we lament what we call ‘the crisis of leadership’. Good people who were once our peers turn out to be corrupt CEOs or menacing presidents and we wonder: ‘What happened?’ The shadow happened, and I consider it vital that young leaders be exposed at the beginning of their journeys to this critical concept. The shadow is that part of ourselves whose existence we tend to deny. That part of us that is hateful, greedy, biased, unfaithful and violent. That part of us that we mask with our preferred version of our self. If we don’t understand our shadow, we risk it showing up at the most inconvenient of times and most tragically when we are in high positions of power.

The Class of 2017 displayed their profound willingness to learn and grow by co-creating a safe space in which we could share, reflect and even laugh at ourselves. I enjoyed the vulnerability with which Scholars shared with each other and marvelled at the deep reflections that allowed us to touch that tender part of ourselves that can often turn vile. My deepest desire in the workshops that I facilitate is to raise the consciousness of each participant. I hope the workshop proved impactful for the Scholars and that they can continue to come to that vulnerability within themselves and others again and again.

“My deepest desire in the workshops is to raise the consciousness of each participant.”



Aspire to Be!

SELECTION COMMITTEE



Luke Kannemeyer & Suntosh Pillay

South Africa & University of Cape Town, 2011

Luke grew up in Retreat, Cape Town and matriculated from St Joseph's College, Rondebosch. He is currently in charge of the operations at SweepSouth; a tech start-up based in Cape Town which helps connect experienced domestic cleaners with clients. His undergraduate and postgraduate studies were completed at the University of Cape Town. His area of research was pharmacogenetics which focuses on the interaction of one's genetics with medication with application to antiretroviral treatment and the treatment of type II Diabetes in black South Africans.

How have you been involved in the Foundation over the past few years?

Luke: The initial things were get-togethers at the MRF with distinguished guests to chat about what it means to be a Scholar. I think my first major contribution was being part of the Aspire to be video as well as the Oxford University Press (OUP) video. I've also rowed for the OUP Dragon Boat Race and attended some of the Alumni events in the Cape. I was invited to contribute at the Completion Workshop in 2016 which was a really special experience. The most notable thing has been the opportunity to be on the Selection Committee for Scholar interviews. There have thus been numerous touch points over the years and for me it's been the

South Africa & University of KwaZulu-Natal, 2008

Suntosh grew up in Northdale, Pietermaritzburg and matriculated from Woodlands Secondary School. He is a clinical psychologist working in a public hospital, King Dinuzulu Hospital Complex, in Durban. He graduated with his degrees in Social Sciences, all *Summa Cum Laude* at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg, and wrote his thesis on post-apartheid racism in society. Suntosh is a Council member of the Psychological Society of South Africa, where he is chairperson of the Equity and Transformation Committee, and is involved in the Africa LGBTI Human Rights Project. He is completing his PhD at UKZN.

touch points where I've been able to meet and chat to Scholars who have come after me that have been particularly special. I also really enjoy coming back to the Foundation and speaking to the staff; seeing how it's grown and how the impact the MRF is having is just being amplified year after year. It's been amazing continuing my journey as a Scholar post my time in Residence.

Suntosh: The Mandela Rhodes family has remained close to my heart and life since being a Scholar in 2008. I've been involved in various capacities over the years. Some of my highlights include being on an advisory committee for the planning of the 10 year reunion

*“There is a deep hunger
for change in Africa and
our young people are going
to drive it.”*

in 2013; co-designing, co-facilitating and evaluating all three Workshops for the Class of 2015; being invited to address the Classes of 2015, 2016 and 2017; and being a Mentor to new Scholars-in-residence. I have also been consistently involved in the Alumni body, since our first AGM in 2008, and was elected onto the Mandela Rhodes Community board of directors for a 3-year term, from 2014–2017, and served as its chairperson. In January 2018 I was invited to run an experiential leadership exercise for the new Cohort.

What was the experience like being on the Selection Committee?

Luke: It was an enormous honour being invited to sit on the panel and knowing that I would have a role to play in shaping the Cohort for the next year. Being on that panel was ... surreal is not quite the right word ... but it was just so tangible in terms of the work that the Scholarships Programme does. Obviously these are the shortlisted candidates so they really are truly special people and it was a phenomenal touch point for me into what is happening out there. It's seeing those who are very accomplished and then there are those who are diamonds in the rough – where you can see there's something special. Even though it may get a bit heated in terms of the candidates that Selectors want to see go through to being a Mandela Rhodes Scholar, it's an extremely collaborative and respectful group of people and everyone is very committed and impassioned about the message of what we are trying to achieve. It will be a memory that sticks with me for the rest of my life – it was truly special.

Suntosh: It was truly a surreal feeling being a Selector, because the journey of being a Scholar is such a life-changing moment, such an emotional period of self-growth, that it's impossible to not be nostalgic about it. It's probably every Scholar's dream to be on the other side of the table, sitting in Madiba's house talking to the cream of Africa's crop! I was quite wistful at the end of 2015, because that was when I was first

asked to be a Selector, but due to a death in my family I had to leave on the morning of Selections. Thankfully, I was asked again in 2017 and I had the good fortune of being able to sit through both days with such a wonderful panel of warm-hearted people, who truly want each and every candidate who walks in to shine and sparkle. Between Mrs Naidu's delicious food and the buffet of delicious ideas that the Scholars-in-waiting presented to us, the experience was a feast. I hope it won't be my last!

What are you learning about youth on the continent?

Luke: What the youth are showing me is that we should stop electing old men to positions of power when often they don't have much interest in ensuring that they leave a legacy. Whereas the youth can breathe life into politics on the continent and that was something which was very evident. This is not a dark continent – there is so much hope, there are really amazing individuals across the continent. Even just looking at my Cohort in terms of what people are doing around the world and subsequent Cohorts and their achievements. It's phenomenal for me to see people touching lives and to see where we can be as a continent. I'm excited. I think give it 20 years and we'll definitely have a MR Scholar president – I can see it happening.

Suntosh: I am learning three things. Firstly, there is a deep hunger for change in Africa and our young people are going to drive it. They are not going to wait for permission or precedent to be radical and innovative. Secondly, as a South African, I feel that we know far less about our northern neighbours than the rest of Africa knows about us. African history really needs to be part of compulsory education. Thirdly, I am so hopeful. The stories of resilience, bravery, fortitude and gutsy imagination that I heard in those interviews left me awe-inspired. I wanted to say to some of those candidates, 'Can I have your autograph now, because I know you're going to be famous one day!'



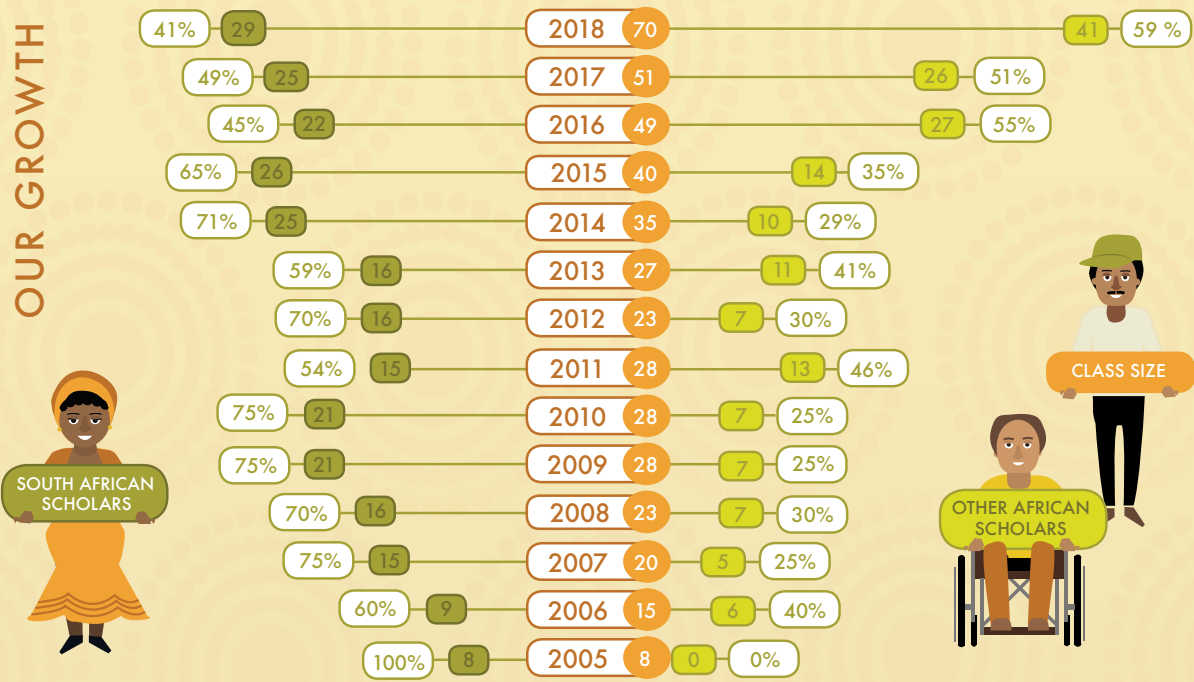
TRACKING OUR FOOTPRINT

OUR REACH



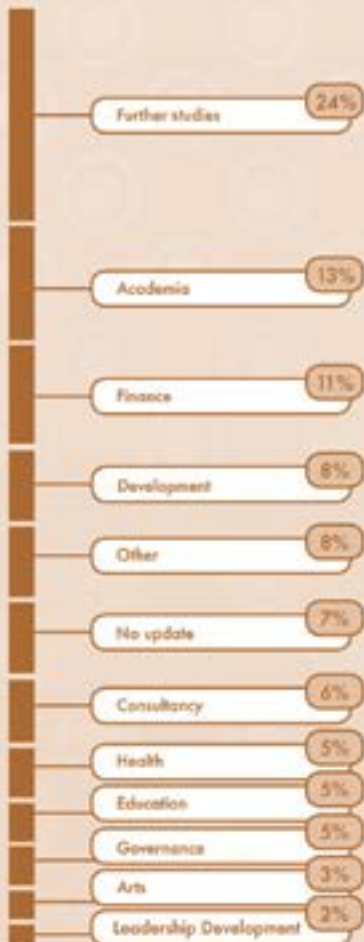
264	South Africa
54	Zimbabwe
26	Kenya
14	Nigeria
9	Lesotho
8	DRC
7	Uganda
7	Zambia
7	Cameroon
6	Botswana
6	Swaziland
5	Malawi
4	Namibia
4	Tanzania
4	Rwanda
4	Egypt
3	Mauritius
3	Mozambique
1	Gabon
1	Sudan
1	Ethiopia
1	Seychelles

OUR GROWTH



Tracking our Footprint, is an exciting visual representation of the Mandela Rhodes Foundation's impact in terms of reach, growth, alumni engagement and industry. It highlights the 25 countries our Scholars come from, the growth of the Scholarship, with particular emphasis on increased Pan-African representation as well as the various ways in which our Alumni give back to the Programme. It also depicts some of the spaces and sectors our Scholars occupy after their time in residence.

LIFE AFTER THE SCHOLARSHIP FOR MRS 2005 - 2016



ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

REVIEWERS



WORKSHOP CONTRIBUTORS



MENTORS



Reflecting on LEADERSHIP

Piloted in 2016, Regional Pods are Mandela Rhodes Scholar-in-Residence gatherings held in between the Workshops. Pods help Scholars build strong local support networks, continue conversations, and enrich the residential experience once they return to their respective institutions.

“Leadership comes with responsibility, a heartfelt responsibility for the wellness of others.”

THE CLASS OF 2017 participated in the first-ever Pod Challenge, during which they were encouraged to engage even more deeply with the MRS experience, and then to document this process as creatively as possible. Below, the winning Pod group, Kagiso Nko (South Africa & University of Johannesburg), Jabulile Sibeko (South Africa & University of Johannesburg) and Mary Silolezya (Zambia & Monash University) reflect on their personal discoveries about leadership during their year in Residence.



THE YEAR 2017 was filled with much learning and growth in our leadership journeys. This includes having to unlearn and relearn certain things about leadership and about ourselves. It meant opening up our minds to new information and letting go of misconceptions, as well as breaking down barriers that we had created in order to protect ourselves emotionally. Letting ourselves be vulnerable allowed the new and unfamiliar to settle within us.

The concept of leadership that we had before the MRF Workshops was intimidating and at times frightening. A leader was seen as someone who presides from on high, having all the answers, unafraid and perfect in every way. Failing to perfectly fit into these expectations

caused anxiety and doubt that further fuelled the feelings that we were underserving of getting the opportunity to be part of the MRF. We were also fearful of the responsibility that would come with being an MRF Scholar, but after going through the Programme we are so glad and humbled to have been picked. A further misconception we had about leadership was that it meant status, authority and positions of influence, so that you can only be a leader if you have a significant level of power and confidence to control situations. However, we soon realised that is so far off. We have learnt through the leadership workshops that even without a position, one is able to influence others by inspiring, motivating and guiding

them to do something and become someone better.

Leadership comes with responsibility, a heartfelt responsibility for the wellness of others. Indeed leaders are devoted to inspiring and empowering those around them, and harnessing the full potential of the community as a whole. It is definitely not about oneself but about those you are leading, a very important point to always remember as the rising leadership of Africa. An important point for us, the rising leaders of Africa and the world to remember is that leadership is not about oneself but about those who you serve.

Some of the hindrances that we have experienced in our different leadership journeys have been fear, lack of self-confidence and not wanting to take initiative. Beginning with learning about ourselves through the Enneagram (leadership assessment tool) and self-awareness exercises, brought out certain things that we didn't know or couldn't quite explain about our own personalities and this taught us that it is very important to know yourself. We learnt to know what drives us, holds us back and causes us to react as we do and how to self-manage those different parts of ourselves for the benefit of others. We are who we are because of the different customs and beliefs that have shaped us. Not all of them are good and some of them we can unlearn in order to learn what will not only be beneficial to us but others too. We learnt that leadership is about being conscious and mindful, of yourself and of others, but this also stems from a heart of love, not just for yourself but for others. Self-awareness is a very important quality of leaders.

Other qualities that we developed



From left to right: Mary Silolezya, Jabulile Sibeko, and Kagiso Nko.

are adaptability and peer respect. Engaging with one another as a Pod group and interacting with other young African leaders in the MRF, who themselves displayed a diverse array of personalities, customs and beliefs, challenged us mentally, spiritually, emotionally and physically too. Having an understanding that in our leadership journeys, even after our time in residence, we will continuously need to work and collaborate with such diversity for the common good. This has been the motivation that we needed to face the challenges of communication head on. Hence, being sensitive and enthusiastic whilst staying confident and courageous, played a huge role in letting the unfamiliar settle with us. As leaders, we know that the goals we want to achieve for a better Africa go beyond ourselves and what we hold dear to the common good of humanity as a whole.

Therefore, by putting aside our stereotypes and opening ourselves to learning, learning to become a leader was made easier. Knowing

and appreciating the different backgrounds that we have come from as individuals and using that as a tool to innovate approaches and solutions to the problems we face as a collective, is the only solution for creating a better Africa.

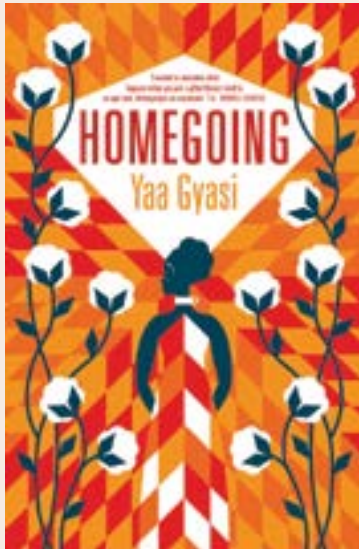
We learnt from the many speakers and facilitators that even across generations, races, nationalities, tribes and gender, we as Africans desire the same thing for our continent. Individually we are working towards the same goal but collectively we can achieve far greater things. We discovered that in our aspirations and fears we are not alone. We discovered that with collaboration, leadership is no longer as daunting as it was. We discovered that failure is part of the journey but confidence and courage should never be discarded. We also learnt that honesty and integrity should be core qualities that leaders must develop since having such a character will enable others to trust them.

Most importantly, we continue to Aspire to Be...



Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi

by Siseko Kumalo (South Africa & Rhodes University 2017)



Published by
Penguin Random House,
2016

HOMEGOING IS ONE of the most invigorating texts of our time, and more so as it is written by a contemporary literato of African ancestry. Yaa Gyasi hails from Ghana and subsequently in *Homegoing* details the woes, disjunctures and dysfunctions derived from colonialisms/coloniality on the African continent. I deliberately frame *Homegoing*, here, as a text for in thinking of it merely as a novel does injustice to the potentialities it offers its reader. In reading *Homegoing* through a philosophical lens, the notion of immanent critique – Socratic social criticism – comes to mind. Immanent critique signals the continued pursuit of wisdom through continuous reflexivity; a position the reader is invited to assume when engaging the text. Animating what has contemporarily been called entanglements by post-modernist thinkers, the text reveals the imbrications between precolonial Africa and the colonialist project. Effia Otcher's marriage to James Collins – the British Colonel of the Cape Castle in the Gold Coast – highlights the entanglements that precolonial African societies had with coloniality.

Social ruptures owing to colonial incursions in Africa enliven questions of identity which have plagued post-colonial writers, illustrated through Zakes Mda's *The Heart of Redness* (Pan MacMillan, 2000) and Mahmoud Mamdani's *When Victims Become Killers* (Princeton, 2001). These disjunctures continue to plague Blackness,

its manifestations and embodiment and are carefully dealt with in Gyasi's *Homegoing* in seriatim. Through a detailed prosaic analysis of the descendants of two sisters who never met, Gyasi vividly illustrates the concept of the impossibility of separable categories as developed by Njabulo Ndebele in *Rediscovery of the Ordinary* (UKZN Press, 2006). Ndebele's analysis reflects on South African political life at the inception of our democracy, and troubles the concept of separable categories premised on political designators such as black, white, coloured or Indian. Ndebele's analysis of the young South Africa inspires the thought of a shared humanness, as there are no zones of absolute innocence on either side of the colonial divide.

It is from this position that Gyasi's *Homegoing* can be understood as a rich text, not only in the tradition of literary studies, but also in other disciplines such as Cultural Sociology, Anthropology, Philosophy, Postcolonial Studies and Critical Race Theory. *Homegoing* forces its reader to confront the tacitly coerced and active collusion between blackness and whiteness in our various contexts, thus brilliantly showcasing our entanglements. From a postcolonial tradition, the text inflects Homi Bhabha's notion of Third Space Hybridity, derived from the dialectical relations between the coloniser and the colonised. It is from these shared spaces of contact through the dialectics of colonial society, that cosmopolitan identities are created and which continuously navigate historical definitions that demarcate our illusory notions of lineage, heritage and appeals to political identities that deny or legitimate belonging.

Gyasi's text begins to illuminate African hybridities and entanglements which trouble puritanical appeals to political identities which saw atrocities such as the Rwandan Genocide, the Liberian Civil War and Gukurahundi in Zimbabwe. Gyasi, in *Homegoing*, invites us to critically reflect on contemporary identities and their histories, while troubling our own positions which cling to historical narrative – at times – to the detriment of others. As such it becomes a critical text in the project of inventing Africa anew, and developing leaders who appreciate the complexities and complicities of our identities in contemporary African societies.





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Executive Director

POEM

by Nick Mulgrew (South Africa & UCT, 2015)

trope

a recasting in case you didn't like the others:
here, an old man – let's just say he's homeless;
he's someone's father, obviously. for a moment
we lock eyes on the street outside my house.
he reminds me of my friend, or my brother,
or, better yet, my “brother” – *yeah that's good*

isn't it – and he's, like, lying on a bench and he's,
like, all ragged and unhappy. and me, the poet,
I walk by and think, *oh yeah that's really tragic*
isn't it. and it is. so I see the main image here:
a man wearing a hat and an old coat, either shivering
or way too hot – I can't tell – maybe scratching

in the tarmac by my Polo like a pigeon, or like an ibis –
something avian, anything unhuman. anything so
that the sub-text you read becomes something like,
isn't it horrible, this country, as if someone needs
a poem to tell them that. as if that could escape you,
as if you could escape it. perhaps what's nice is that

this poem supposes a mercy: that you've never seen this
before. maybe that's the point of a poem like this:
to open up the possibility that something like this
isn't happening and won't happen; that this is
something unordinary or just-discovered. otherwise
what's the point? voyeurism is too much art already.

still, something inside says, *look, no matter: this captures*
what's really happening, man, and such, you really
deserve a reward. a reward, sure, but for what?
for opening the front door, looking at the street
outside the gate, saying to myself, *yeah that's it*,
that's totally it, then writing it down, then leaving.

YOUNG AFRICAN,

ASPIRE TO BE a Mandela Rhodes Scholar if you dream of being a leader; a leader in whose blend of character and intellect Africa will take pride.

Aspire to this if you believe you have within you the moral force of character and instinct to lead; and understand that leadership is more than personal ambition, it is also service, requiring the will and capacity to inspire and develop fellow human beings to their own excellence;

Aspire to this if you believe that the advancement of individual and social fulfillment, human rights, dignity, the achievement of fundamental freedoms, is among the highest of callings;

Aspire to this if you believe that hard work is essential, and you esteem the performance of public duties to be among the noblest of aims.

ASPIRE TO BE a Mandela Rhodes Scholar if you understand education to be both a gift and a tool for the advancement of human development, to the benefit of all.

Aspire to this if you value and pursue scholastic attainment, but understand that intellectual excellence is not to be seen in isolation from other qualities of character; that leaders require a roundedness of personality;

Aspire to this if you believe that in receiving an exceptional education, an individual embraces a responsibility to foster such opportunities for others;

Aspire to this if you believe that your own success might also make a difference to others.

ASPIRE TO BE a Mandela Rhodes Scholar if you believe in an entrepreneurial spirit to allow Africa to take with dignity its rightful place as an equal and competitive presence in the global world.

Aspire to this if you have the vigour to pursue this aim with integrity; and the energy to use your talents to the full, as exemplified by a fondness for and success in team pursuits beyond the confines of your professional career;

Aspire to this if you believe that individual human effort, innovation and creativity will lead to the betterment of society and an effective contribution to the world;

Aspire to this if you love Africa and all of its peoples.

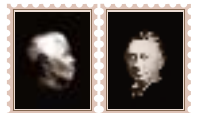
ASPIRE TO BE a Mandela Rhodes Scholar if you believe in reconciliation, freedom, peace and prosperity among all human beings, who should share equal citizenship and opportunities in this world.

Aspire to this if you believe in being part of creating a humane world in which all individuals and cultures enjoy equal respect; a world whose emergence will say a new order is born in which we are all each other's keepers;

Aspire to this if you value truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindness, unselfishness and fellowship;

Aspire to be a Mandela Rhodes Scholar if you believe that the past, in all its imperfection, should be harnessed to benefit the present and the future.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO MANDELARHODES.ORG



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