

**FirstRand
Laurie Dippenaar
scholarship** *for*
postgraduate
international
study

**FirstRand/
Canon Collins
scholarship** *to*
*the University
of Cambridge*

Applications open
16 December 2014
and close
26 February 2015



FIRSTRAND

“Young people must
take it upon
themselves to ensure
that they receive the
highest education
possible so that they
can present us well in
future as future
leaders.”

Nelson Mandela

FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

The FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship, to the value of R600 000 per annum for a maximum of two years, is available to South African citizens for postgraduate study outside South Africa in any discipline at an international university of their choice.

The successful candidates will have excelled academically in their chosen field and will have been able to demonstrate:

- leadership qualities;
- strength of character;
- community involvement; and
- the potential to be a destiny changer in his or her chosen field.

- There is no age limit, but preference will be given to candidates under the age of 35.
- Candidates who are currently, or have been studying overseas, will not be considered for this scholarship.
- Successful candidates are required to return to South Africa for at least five years after completing their studies.
- What makes this scholarship different from most is not only the personal interest which Laurie Dippenaar, chairman of FirstRand, takes in the selection process, but also his interest in the ongoing progress of the recipients.
- 2015 will be the 9th year that this prestigious scholarship will be awarded.

Applications for the 2015 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship for postgraduate international study will open on 16 December 2014 and close on 26 February 2015.

Details and the application form will be available on the FirstRand website,
www.firstrand.co.za



FirstRand / Canon Collins scholarship to the University of Cambridge

FirstRand has entered into a partnership with Canon Collins Educational and Legal Assistance Trust and the University of Cambridge as part of its new Global Leaders' scholarship programme. The aim is to allow outstanding South African students to undertake postgraduate study at one of the world's foremost universities. Preference will be given to previously disadvantaged students.

This scholarship will provide full funding for one student each year to study a master's degree at the University of Cambridge across a wide range of subjects. The partnership is for five years.

FirstRand together with Canon Collins Trust will conduct the interviewing and selection process, which will run concurrently with the FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar Scholarship for international postgraduate study, based on academic excellence, leadership ability, community involvement and the candidate's potential to be a destiny changer.

Candidates applying for the FirstRand/Canon Collins Scholarship to the University of Cambridge will automatically be entered into the FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar Scholarship.

FirstRand, Canon Collins Trust and Cambridge are looking for the best applicants who will truly benefit from the opportunity and contribute to South Africa on their return. The Global Leaders programme will not only provide support for the candidates during their year in Cambridge, but will continue to do so after they graduate to ensure students are presented with contacts and opportunities when they go back home.

Applications for the FirstRand/Canon Collins Scholarship to the University of Cambridge and the FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar Scholarship for international postgraduate study for 2015 will open on 16 December 2014 and close on 26 February 2015.

Cambridge graduate applications will be accepted from 1 September 2014 onwards. We recommend that all Cambridge applications are completed by 31 January 2015.

Information and application forms will be on the FirstRand website, **www.firstrand.co.za** or on the Canon Collins Trust website, **www.canoncollins.org.uk** from mid-November 2014.

“The candidates that we have interviewed historically are blessed with the finest intellects I have encountered anywhere. They all have excelled academically, have strong leadership characteristics and have contributed to the upliftment of people less fortunate than themselves. It is an extremely rewarding and humbling experience conducting the interviews. I have learnt that we have phenomenally talented young people in South Africa.”

– **Laurie Dippenaar, Chairman, FirstRand.**

“South Africa needs passionate youngsters to expand their skills base and return home to make a difference here.”

– **Sizwe Nxasana, Chairman of the FirstRand Foundation and CEO of FirstRand Limited.**

Profiles of previous scholarship awardees follow.

FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship



Andrew Linden

2014 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

MSc in Global Health Science, Oxford University

Andrew holds a Masters of Business Science degree from the University of Cape Town. He left his job as an actuarial consultant in London at the end of 2013 and since then has been travelling in the developing world. His travels have taken him through east and west Africa, Central America and South-East Asia. Andrew's studies will focus on health in developing countries, which will also equip him to make a meaningful contribution to the South African healthcare system.



Gift Pule

2014 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

PhD in Stem Cell Research at the University of Manchester

Gift is currently completing an MSc in Medicine specialising in Human Genetics at the University of Cape Town. His work is in collaboration with Mowbray Maternity Hospital and spans human genetics and haematology in the department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences. This is prior to his enrolment at the University of Manchester, UK, for a PhD in Stem Cell Research. He is interested in the molecular mechanisms of inheritance and genes and feels that it is at the stage of embryogenesis and stem cell pluripotency the function of genes is important to understand if South Africa is to follow the rest of the world in exploring stem cell treatment and therapies. He learned cell culture skills during his studies and wants to further these in his PhD while obtaining a skill set that will be of benefit in resource-limited settings in Africa.

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Michael Schmid

2014 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

Masters in Micro and Nanotechnology Enterprise,
Cambridge University

Michael holds a BSc in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Cape Town and his interest in novel technology and innovation led him down this exciting path, which will ultimately help him ensure that South Africa is at the forefront of the nano “revolution”.

Currently taking a sabbatical from work, he is driving an ambulance from London to Mongolia which will be donated to a hospital in Ulaanbaatar, the capital. The trip embodies his passion for learning about other cultures and seeing the world from varying perspectives. Michael’s healthy appetite for risk is satisfied through his love of paragliding and trail running.



Charlotte Slingsby

2013 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

MA in Innovation Design Engineering, Imperial College London
and Royal College of Art

Charlotte recently graduated in Electro-Mechanical Engineering at the University of Cape Town. Her final thesis involved the entire design and building of a scaled down replica of Curiosity, the Mars rover, for the Cape Town Science Centre. With Charlotte’s passion for all things technical and creative she is pursuing a combined Masters in engineering and art. Innovation Design Engineering is a specialised degree facilitated by both Imperial College London and Royal College of Art. She aims to use innovative engineering ideas as a tool of transformation in order to actively participate in the development of South Africa. Her interests lie in green technology involving the innovative use of waste materials.

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Matthew Gadd

2013 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

DPhil Engineering Science, Oxford University

Matthew is currently pursuing his DPhil Engineering Science at Oxford after studying Mechatronics Engineering at the University of Cape Town. His research at Oxford will focus on computer vision and robust decision making for autonomous urban vehicles. Congruent with this, he advocates social and educational development through effective software skills transfer.

Matthew devotes his time when not studying to literary modernism, art history, comparative religious studies and cultural experiences from travel. His preferred physical pastimes include bouldering, skateboarding, dancing and hatha yoga.

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Shahida Moosa

2013 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

PhD in Molecular Genetics, University of Cologne

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



Matthew Butler-Adam

2012 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

MSc in Economics for Development, Oxford University

Matthew completed a degree in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics (honours in the latter) cum laude at the University of Cape Town as a fellow of the Mellon Foundation and graduate researcher at the Southern African Labour and Development Research Unit. He completed an MSc in Economics for Development (cum laude) at Oxford University winning the Luca d'Agliano prize for the best dissertation. His research focused on microeconomic theory and micro-econometrics and included papers on sex work, language in the labour market and, more recently, gender dynamics in intra-household resource allocation models. Upon returning to South Africa, Matthew will work in management consultancy in Johannesburg and various youth-led social movements concerned with strengthening South African civil society. Matthew is a former South African universities debating champion, national ice hockey player and rowed for his college first boat at Oxford – he hopes to continue these interests in the future.

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Thyla van der Merwe

2012 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

MSc in Information Security at Royal Holloway,
University of London

Thyla is currently a member of the Centre for Doctoral Training in Cyber Security at Royal Holloway, University of London, funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (UK). Prior to starting her PhD, Thyla completed an MSc in Information Security at Royal Holloway where she was awarded the prize for most outstanding student on the MSc programme and a Computer Weekly-Search Security award for her dissertation on the cryptographic mechanisms used in transport ticketing. She currently represents South Africa on the International Organisation for Standardisation committee responsible for standardising cryptographic mechanisms and protocols. Her current duties draw greatly on her experience as a former industry cryptographer. Thyla's current research focuses on the security of internet protocols, specifically cryptanalysis of the ciphers used in such protocols. She remains active and is currently training for a duathlon!



Andrew Paverd

2011 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

DPhil Computer Science, Oxford University

Andrew is currently in the final year of his DPhil at Oxford University. His doctoral research is in the field of cyber security and aims to develop new technical solutions to enhance communication privacy in next-generation systems such as the smart energy grid. He has published a number of scientific papers on his research. In addition, he is also involved in teaching the principles of cyber security to Masters and first year PhD students. Andrew participates in the College tennis team and the chapel choir, and has recently taken up cycling. This year Andrew has been appointed as the Assistant Praefectus of Balliol College representing the College and has oversight of Balliol's Graduate Centre at Holywell Manor.

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Nkazimulo Sokhulu

2011 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

MBA, Columbia University

Nkazi grew up with his parents and younger brother in a township in the south coast of KwaZulu-Natal. After completing his Finance and Accounting degree at UCT, he worked in Nigeria, Kenya and Tanzania as a management consultant at McKinsey. Following experience at Old Mutual on various projects for the Emerging Markets CEO, he went on to complete his MBA at Columbia Business School. With his two-year "holiday" of mingling with some of the smartest minds in the world of business and extensive travel with classmates behind him, Nkazi re-entered the corporate market in South Africa and is building his career in finance as the Head of Business Banking Insurance at FNB.

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David Hofmeyr

2010 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

MA in Organisational Mathematics, Edinburgh University

David is approaching the end of the second year of his PhD at Lancaster University, as part of the STOR-i (Statistics and Operations Research) doctoral training programme. STOR-i focuses on the interface between the academic fields of Statistics and Operations Research, as well as their respective interfaces with industry. David's research is geared towards machine and statistical learning methods for so-called streaming data. The data stream paradigm can refer to scenarios in which data are received and processed in real time, or those in which the amount of data is so vast that it either cannot be stored in a computer's memory or cannot be processed in reasonable time and so must be considered sequentially. While this research remains in the theoretical and methodological stages, David hopes to apply his work to the automated analysis and classification of image data and to the analysis of animal population data. Aside from his research, David and a number of his colleagues recently organised and hosted a workshop on "Big Data" at Lancaster University.

David hopes, following the completion of his PhD, to pursue an academic career in statistics, and hopes his experiences with STOR-i will help to generate cross departmental research wherever he ends up.

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David Watson

2010 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

MPhil in Civil Law, Oxford University

David finished pupillage in 2013 and is now practicing as an advocate. He is a member of the Thulamela Group of Advocates based in Sandton. He is trying to divide his practice between *pro bono* and commercial work. David's *pro bono* practice ranges from representing local communities who are in disputes with traditional leaders over mining licences to working with people with disabilities not properly accommodated in the criminal justice system. His commercial work is similarly diverse. Examples are a dispute over directors' fiduciary duties and the awarding of a tender.



Maryke du Plooy

2009 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

MPhil in Intellectual History, University of Sussex

Maryke has been teaching History at Parktown High School for Girls since 2011. She loves being in the classroom and her experiences at Parktown have been invaluable. Together with four other teachers, she has setup a non-profit organisation, Phemba, which recognises that the quality of South African education depends on the quality of our teachers and aims to promote excellence in education by attracting and retaining enthusiastic and competent individuals to the teaching profession. As the pilot programmes draw to an end in 2014, Maryke will be leaving full-time teaching to devote more time to Phemba. She will miss school life but is excited about the opportunities 2015 will bring.

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Lucy Corkin

2008 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

PhD in Political Science, SOAS

Lucy completed her PhD in International Relations at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) London University in 2011. Her manuscript, *Uncovering African Agency: Angola's management of China's Credit Lines*, was published by Ashgate, London in early 2013. After a three-month stint as a Research Associate at the BRICS Policy Centre in Rio de Janeiro, she decided it was time for something completely different. In July 2012, Lucy moved to Johannesburg to join RMB and is still there. Her plan is to turn her passion for China-Africa relations into a viable career in finance. It's early days, but so far so good.

Lucy was bitten by the travel bug at an early age and, when not dreaming up plausible excuses to explore new corners of the globe, can be found engrossed in a historical novel. To mollify her husband, who patiently indulges most of her eccentricities, she has promised to take up mountain biking more seriously.

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Casper Gus Waschefort

2007 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

PhD in Law, SOAS

Gus' passion is divided equally between international law and the visual documentation of human rights abuses through photography. He spent four years working as a professional freelance photojournalist and has, in the course of his work as both legal academic and photographer, travelled to more than forty countries on four continents.

His academic interest relates primarily to the intersect of international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international criminal law – to this end he places much emphasis on human rights fact-finding. He is currently an associate professor in the Department of Public, Constitutional and International Law at the University of South Africa and has also served as legal advisor to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial summary or arbitrary executions.

Gus was awarded his PhD with highest honours and Hart Publishing in Oxford is publishing his manuscript under the title *International Law and Child Soldiers*. During the past year, Gus was appointed as Co-Rapporteur of the International Human Rights Law Committee of the International Law Association. Finally, he will spend the last three months of 2014 at the Swedish National Defence College as an invited guest lecturer.



Christie Dorfling

2007 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

MSc in Engineering, Cambridge University

Christie obtained his PhD in extractive metallurgical engineering at Stellenbosch University in December 2012. His position as lecturer at the Department of Process Engineering allows him to pursue his passions for teaching as well as research in the field of extractive metallurgy. His research focuses on the development and modelling of economic and environmentally friendly hydrometallurgical processes for the recovery of valuable metals from low grade ores and secondary sources. In his spare time, he enjoys exploring the Stellenbosch surroundings on foot or by bike.

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Momentum Dippenaar scholarship



Mluleki Shongwe

2013 Momentum Dippenaar scholarship

LLM in Finance and Law, Duisenberg School of Finance

Mluleki is currently an International Capital Markets and Banking and Finance intern at Allen & Overy in the Netherlands. He was awarded the scholarship to study a LLM in Finance and Law at the Duisenberg School of Finance in the Netherlands, which he completed in 2014. He also holds a LLB from the University of Zululand and a LLM in Banking and Stock Exchange Law from the University of Johannesburg. He is involved in providing mentorship to high school and law students at the University of Zululand and is a patron of the Winnie Mabaso Foundation.

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Leanne Brady

2011 Momentum Dippenaar scholarship

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

Leanne completed her MSc in Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 2012. In 2013 she moved to a rural village in the former Ciskei where she worked in partnership with the Department of Health and a team of community health workers in a programme aimed at strengthening health care services offered by local government clinics and a community-based NGO, the Keiskamma Trust. She is currently working as a clinical doctor in a hospital on the Cape Flats. She is also part of a team conducting research on health systems with the Medical Research Council as part of a World Health Organisation Health Systems Alliance initiative. Leanne intends to start her PhD in Public Health next year.

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Tracey Millin

2010 Momentum Dippenaar scholarship

MSc Education in Language Teaching, Edinburgh University

After completing an MSc Education at the University of Edinburgh, Tracey returned to South Africa to teach English at secondary school level and academic literacy development in higher education. During this time, Tracey experienced first-hand the discrepancy between skills developed within the National Senior Certificate and the skills required to access and succeed at university. For this reason, Tracey has taken up a research post with the Centre for Critical Research on Race and Identity in conjunction with the Department of Higher Education and Training, and the Graduate School of Stellenbosch University. Her doctoral research will be focusing on the evaluation of an academic literacy development pedagogy, which aims to maximise the assistance given to Grade 12 learners to ensure they are given the requisite literacy tools and skills to complete undergraduate studies in the minimum time frame given. She hopes to use her research to develop an appropriate bridging programme for Grade 12 learners to support an easy transition into university. Given Tracey's research interests, she is currently a board member of Reading to Learn South Africa, an NGO specialising in the retraining of teachers in South Africa and Uganda, for the reading and writing component of the school curriculum.

Given that Tracey lives in Stellenbosch with her husband, time away from her research is spent on the many vineyards surrounding Stellenbosch, running with the local farmers' dogs, and visiting the many coffee shops on offer in Stellenbosch.

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Kyla Brady

2009 Momentum Dippenaar scholarship

PhD Stem Cell Research, Bristol University

Kyla has completed her PhD and graduated as Dr Brady on 14 July 2014. She currently holds a post-doctoral position at the University of Bristol and is exploring the relationship between the expression of novel marker on subsets of bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells predictive of improved cartilage formation with aging and osteoarthritis. She is also supervising a fellow South African trainee orthopaedic surgeon who is undertaking a MD. Kyla has been offered a Research Associate post at the Institute of Integrative Biology at the University of Liverpool, so is preparing for a move up north where she will be involved in setting up and running a new research laboratory from October 2014. She has also been invited to be a keynote speaker at the International Conference on Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine in Pretoria in August. This is a remarkable opportunity that will give her insight into the scope of research in South Africa and provide a platform to initiate networking opportunities and potential collaborative projects. A very exciting year lies ahead, but first a celebratory trip to Latvia after graduation.



Dominique Schafer

2008 Momentum Dippenaar scholarship

MSc in African Studies, Oxford University

Dominique currently lives in Gonubie, East London and works for RB Africa – a small but dynamic consultancy that designs and implements sustainable solutions to create high-performance, internationally competitive organisations. She is currently managing the implementation of a strategy to enable effective communication between management and unions, and improve performance at a rolling stock manufacturing company on the East Rand. Dominique hopes for a more peaceful and prosperous South Africa for all and believes the most effective way to improve education, increase employment and reduce socio-economic inequality is through a committed and strong partnership between the public and private sectors.



Willem Klopper

2008 Momentum Dippenaar scholarship

MA in Management Research, Oxford University

After returning from his studies at Oxford, Willem joined the FirstRand Group for three years on their CA Training Programme. After qualifying as CA(SA), he moved to Pembani Remgro Infrastructure Managers, a private equity/infrastructure fund, in April 2013. The fund aims to make investments into infrastructure and related companies on the African continent.

FirstRand assistance bursaries



Sydelle Smith

2014 FirstRand Assistance bursary

MSc in African Studies, Oxford University

Sydelle is a photographer/filmmaker with an honours degree in Visual Anthropology. She will be completing her MSc in African Studies at Oxford University focusing on a mobile, solar-powered cinema she is developing with her finance's production company. Through the Sunshine Cinema, a mobile, solar-powered cinema that will travel around southern Africa's most remote rural areas, they aim to connect the dots between storytelling and social change by screening films and hosting workshops that champion local solutions to local problems, empowering communities to take on the challenges they face. She works as a photographer/filmmaker with a keen interest in migration, memory, place making and participatory social projects and has exhibited in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Holland and Barcelona. *Soft Walls* is her first solo exhibition and is funded by The Gisele Wulfsohn Mentorship from The Market Photo Workshop and is currently on display at the Sea Point Promenade. The work aims to cast a light on positive relationships between South African citizens and African migrants in communities often plagued with xenophobia and social tension. Besides her photographic personal work she has been working for The Children's Radio Foundation as a photographer as well as The Red Bull Studio. Sydelle is also working on an exciting urban geography exhibition project with the African Centre for Cities completing ten photo essays on different Cape Town stories that will be exhibited at the City Hall from October 2014.



Deena Dinat

2013 FirstRand Assistance bursary

MA in English Literature, University of British Columbia

Deena recently completed his Honours in English Literature at the University of the Witwatersrand. Since then, he has been working as a researcher on a book on Johannesburg's under-examined history. He has also been volunteering at a school that supports refugee children as they try to access mainstream education in South Africa. Issues of migration in African literature are a major research interest and will likely be a central focus of his thesis.

In his free time, Deena enjoys playing football (he models his game on an out of shape Michael Carrick), film photography and occasionally working as a hip-hop DJ in Braamfontein's bustling party scene. He already misses the sunshine that will be so hard to come by for the next two years.



Tiffany Ebrahim

2013 FirstRand Assistance bursary

MSc in Gender, Sexuality and Society, Amsterdam University

Tiffany is currently pursuing her Masters in Sociology in Gender, Sexuality and Society at the University of Amsterdam. She recently completed her Honours in Political Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand and was an intern at SECTION 27. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Law and International Relations. Tiffany decided to place her LLB on hold and spent an additional year exploring the human rights discourse as a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow. She subsequently pursued her Honours in Political Studies, with a focus on gender equality (or the lack thereof) in a South African context.

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Alexandra Halligey

2012 FirstRand Assistance bursary

MA in Performance Studies, New York University

Alex finished her Masters in Performance Studies at New York University in May 2013 and will be returning to South Africa later this year to resume her work in theatre and the performing arts. In the past, Alex has acted, directed and written for theatre, radio and television, as well as working in arts administration and teaching acting and voice. She is looking to pursue a PhD in South Africa which will combine her artistic practice with academic research in furthering the possibilities of socially-engaged theatre and performance work, with a particular interest in environmental sustainability, gender equality, cultural identity and economic difference. She also happily anticipates a return to her involvement with three theatre companies already keenly engaged with these issues: Well Worn Theatre, the Mother tongue Project and Magnet Theatre. Currently in London, she is relishing seeing as much theatre as possible for pure viewing pleasure.

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Jessica Benjamin

2012 FirstRand Assistance bursary

MA in Public Administration, Columbia University

Jessica has recently completed her first year at Columbia University's School of International Affairs, where she is enrolled in an MPA in Economic and Political Development. So far, the experience has surpassed all of Jessica's expectations – her first year has proved to be a whirlwind of stimulating courses, wonderful people and exciting New York adventures. Jessica was in Colombia where she interned for the summer with Un Techo Para Mi Pais, a youth-based organisation with a broad social agenda, including construction of emergency housing, education, health, community leadership, microfinance and microenterprise. The experience has afforded her a rare and fascinating glimpse into Latin American development and the chance to participate in the upliftment of some of Bogotá's poorest and most vulnerable communities.

Jessica is currently taking some time to explore the rest of the country and attempt to pick up some Spanish before returning to New York, where she is excited to see what second year holds in store. She is proud to have been awarded a position as teacher's assistant for the fall semester and has also been accepted into the International Fellows Program at Columbia – a year-long fellowship for a selection of students from Columbia's graduate schools, which examines the changing face of the global order and analyses the shifting roles of the US and other emerging players. She is eager to introduce the South African perspective into the seminar and looks forward to visiting the UN and DC with the group early next year.

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Ngovuyo Gugushe

2012 FirstRand Assistance bursary

MA in Finance, Cambridge University

Ngovuyo recently graduated with a Master of Finance degree from Cambridge University and is now a mergers and acquisitions transactor at RMB.

Ngovuyo grew up in Cape Town with his mother and four older siblings. He enjoyed and excelled at jazz trombone being selected on a number of occasions to the National Schools Big Band at the Grahamstown Jazz Festival. He also performed twice at the Cape Town Jazz Festival with the Cape Town-based youth jazz group, The Little Giants. Ngovuyo had another passion alongside his love of jazz music; finance. He went on to study Business Science at the University of Cape Town focusing on finance and economics. He continued to play jazz and ventured into jazz composition, with two of his compositions being recorded. After completing his degree, he joined the South African Reserve Bank on their graduate programme. He then joined RMB's FICC team as a trader. This is where he stayed until he left to pursue his postgraduate degree at St Edmund's College, Cambridge University.

Ngovuyo also hopes to help the organisation called Thought School, which he co-founded with fellow young professionals in 2011, expand into more communities around the Gauteng region. Thought School is a not-for-profit organisation that helps learners from underprivileged backgrounds in mathematics, literacy, career guidance and general life skills. He says that this project has become his third passion in life together with jazz and finance.

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Robert Freeman

2012 FirstRand Assistance bursary

MA in Issues in Modern Culture, University College London

Robert has recently returned from a nine-month placement with the United Nations' Nansen Initiative, working on developing policy to protect those who cross borders in the context of natural disasters and climate change. While in Geneva, Robert developed a nasty skiing habit, which he hopes to get rid of now that he is back in South Africa. Robert has since enrolled to complete his LLB at Wits University, intending to finish by the end of 2015.



Zoë Lincoln

2011 FirstRand Assistance bursary

MSc in Sustainable Energy Systems, Edinburgh University

Zoë Lincoln obtained her MSc in Sustainable Energy Systems from the University of Edinburgh in 2012. Since returning to Cape Town, she has been working for Eskom Distribution, planning rural electricity networks and facilitating the grid connection of renewable energy generators within the Department of Energy's Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme – now in its fourth iteration. Zoë is very excited to have been selected as one of five South Africans to participate in a six-week technical leadership development programme – TechWomen – in San Francisco later this year, under the administration of the United States Department of State.

A large amount of Zoë's spare time is dedicated to administration of the Hope Network (a small scholarship, mentoring and learnership programme for South African females completing degrees in STEM and medical subjects), which has been growing beautifully since its inception in 2010. She also tries to find time to attend French classes and go on the occasional jog, and was pleased to complete her tenth Two Oceans half marathon earlier in 2014!

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Abigail Marcus

2010 FirstRand Assistance bursary

MA in Law, New York University

In January 2014, Abigail left her position at the management consulting firm Blaqwell to commence two research projects. Abigail is currently researching the accountability of private military companies for violations of international criminal law as part of a broader project for a book, *Atrocity, Commerce and Accountability*, authored by Professor James Stewart of the University of British Columbia. Her second research project examines the relationship between public sector corruption and the rule of law in South Africa, and explores creative legal mechanisms for incentivising the reporting and prosecution of corruption. In October 2014, Abigail will begin work as an associate at the New York office of the law firm Latham & Watkins. She lives in Brooklyn, New York with her husband Simon Marcus.

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Hannah de Wet

2010 FirstRand Assistance bursary

MA Development Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam

Hannah completed her MA degree in Development Studies, specialising in Poverty Studies and Policy Analysis, at the Institute of Social Studies (Erasmus University Rotterdam) in The Hague in 2011. The degree complemented her previous training in anthropology and work experience focused on social accountability and human rights monitoring work among civil society organisations across southern Africa, and also expanded her perspectives and research interests. In particular, her studies enabled her to explore the nexus between religion, culture and development; a research area which she remains fascinated by and committed to.

Hannah currently works as a senior social scientist at a consultancy firm, Coastal and Environmental Services. In this capacity, her professional interests relate to the social impacts of planned change and challenges of income and livelihood restoration, particularly in terms of involuntary resettlement.

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Inka Schomer

2010 FirstRand Assistance bursary

MSc Environmental Change Management, Oxford University

Since the completion of her MSc in Environmental Change and Management at Oxford University, Inka has been working in the field of renewable energy and carbon management. She is currently based at the World Bank in Washington DC, learning about the challenges of providing energy access in low-income countries and the practical implications of leap-frogging to clean energy systems. This work has taken her to interesting countries, including the Maldives and Turkey, where she has seen the impacts of climate finance in local contexts. Beyond her work, Inka has been competing in outdoor adventure races and volleyball leagues, which provide a welcome change to an office environment. She has also been trying to explore new parts of the USA such as Seattle, Utah and Puerto Rico, which have given her valuable insights into the country.



Simon Marcus

2010 FirstRand Assistance bursary

MA Philosophy, New York University

In 2013, Simon Marcus completed his MA in Philosophy at New York University. Since graduating, Simon has been working at TED Conferences at their headquarters in New York City (NYC), largely in an editorial and strategy capacity, reviewing talks for and producing written content for web and social media. Simon still takes every opportunity to flex his philosophical muscles, and he recently organised a special TED salon at the NYC office with talks from brilliant philosophers. He lives in Brooklyn with his wife, Abigail Marcus, a lawyer, who is herself a FirstRand award winner.

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Notes

APPLICATIONS
open 16 December 2014
and close
26 February 2015

For details and the application form go to
www.firstrand.co.za



FIRSTRAND