

FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP
– *for* –
International
Postgraduate Study

FIRSTRAND
OXFORD AFRICAN STUDIES
SCHOLARSHIP

*Applications open 16 December 2016 and close
23 February 2017*



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

The candidates historically interviewed all have amazing talent and I have always been impressed by the enthusiasm shown for their chosen fields of study. They have excelled academically as well as in their outside interests, such as sport, music and community service. Leadership qualities also seem to be part and parcel of their make-up. The interviews are a humbling and rewarding experience.

– Laurie Dippenaar, Chairman, FirstRand.

FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

The FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship, to the value of R750 000 per annum, 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.
- 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.
 - 2017 will be the 11th year that this prestigious scholarship will be awarded.

Applications for the 2017 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship for postgraduate international study will open on 16 December 2016 and close 23 February 2017.

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

FIRSTRAND OXFORD AFRICAN STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP TO OXFORD UNIVERSITY

The FirstRand Foundation has entered into a partnership with the African Studies Centre to allow an outstanding South African student to undertake postgraduate study at one of the world's foremost universities, Oxford University.

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The scholarship will provide full funding for one student each year to study a master's degree at the African Studies Centre at Oxford University. The successful candidate will be housed at Wadham College. The partnership is for five years.

FirstRand 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 have to apply and be accepted for an MSc in African Studies at Oxford University. Applications for the FirstRand Oxford African Studies scholarship are online only.

FirstRand and the African Studies Centre are looking for the best applicants who will truly benefit from the opportunity and contribute to South Africa on their return.

Applications for the FirstRand Oxford African Studies scholarship and the FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship for international postgraduate study for 2017 will open on 16 December 2016 and close on 23 February 2017.

Closing date for applications for the MSc in African Studies at Oxford University is 20 January 2017. For more information visit:
<http://www.africanstudies.ox.ac.uk/msc-african-studies>.

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

PROFILES OF PREVIOUS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES FOLLOW.

FIRSTRAND LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP



RUSSEL DARIES

2016 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

*MSc in Machine Learning, University
College London*

Russel has a BSc in Electrical Engineering from the University of Cape Town. He will be undertaking an MSc in Machine Learning at University College London, starting September 2016. After graduating in 2013 from UCT, Russel joined Denel Dynamics in the guidance and control department as an engineer in January 2014. His work primarily focused on simulation, mathematical modelling and software development for flight control applications at Denel Dynamics.

He is looking forward to exploring the cutting edge technologies related to machine learning at UCL and how the development of data science can further shape the world we live in. Russel looks forward to exploring the streets of London during his studies, by utilising the oldest form of travel known to man; his lower limbs in preparation for the 2017 London Marathon.



NIEL VAN DER WALT

2016 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

*Masters in Electrical Engineering
(telecommunications and sensing systems)
at Delft University*

Niel recently obtained his Bachelors of Engineering Honours in Electronic Engineering from the University of Pretoria, focusing on radio astronomy. He also pursued distance education through Stanford University in the field of quantum mechanics. During his time at the University of Pretoria, he was the vice-chair of the EBIT academic faculty house, won the mentorship award in the EBIT faculty for assisting first generation first-year students, and reached the semi-finals in the national university championship for debating. He has been involved in university subject teaching and tutoring for the past four years. He is currently working as an information security researcher where he contributes to the field of computer and financial security. He and his wife share a passion for the outdoors and fitness and also frequently hike in the Drakensburg and other equally picturesque locations.

In September 2016, Niel will be starting with Masters classes through the QUTech Academy at the Delft University of Technology, otherwise known as TUDelft, in the Netherlands. His masters will focus on quantum technologies – a field that will likely transform industries in the coming decades. The subjects presented at the well-regarded QUTech Academy, which recently obtained funding from Intel, include quantum computation, quantum information and quantum electronics. Quantum computation will make it possible to perform accurate simulation of chemistry for medicine and materials development, as well as finding the optimal points of operation for industrial processes. Furthermore, quantum key distribution is regarded as an essential tool for securing high-value data transmissions in the future. Niel will seek to learn as much as he can about these technologies so he can apply the knowledge to challenges specific to South Africa and Africa.



MOGWALE MOTEBEJANE

2016 FirstRand Foundation scholarship

Research Fellowship in Interventional Neuroradiology, Tufts University School of Medicine

Mogwale is a neurosurgeon trained at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital, University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban. His special interest is in interventional neuroradiology/endovascular neurosurgery. In pursuit of his dream, Mogwale attended an endovascular training course called Pierre Lasjaunias Neuroendovascular Educational Team (PLANET Course) offered by the University of Toronto in 2014 and successfully completed the course with certification. He presented some of his neuro-endovascular research work in several local and international conferences including the International Conference of Cerebrovascular Surgeons held in Indonesia in 2014 and World Federation of Interventional and Therapeutic Neuroradiology held at the Gold Coast, Brisbane, Australia in 2015. His two neuro-oncology research abstracts were accepted for oral presentation at the Congress of Neurosurgeon society to be held in San Diego, USA on 24 to 28 September 2016.

Mogwale is currently pursuing a research fellowship in interventional neuroradiology at Lahey Hospital and Medical Centre, Tufts University, Boston, USA. His goal is to see neuro-endovascular services provided by many centres across South Africa in the near future.

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GENNA GARDINI

2016 FirstRand Foundation scholarship

PhD in Drama at Queen Mary University of London

Genna is a writer based in Cape Town. She holds an MA in Theatre-Making (playwriting) from the University of Cape Town. She has won various awards for her work as a poet and playwright, including the DALRO New Coin Poetry Prize. Her debut poetry collection, *Matric Rage*, was published by uHlanga in 2015 and received a commendation for the 2016 Ingrid Jonker Prize. She is the co-founder of Horses' Heads Productions, a queer theatre company, and a member of PlayRiot, the South African playwrights' collective. In 2016, Genna curated *Poetic Licence*, where students wrote and performed work about their experiences of public transport for Infecting the City Session II. She currently works as a drama lecturer at CityVarsity and is a 2016 Institute for Creative Arts Fellow.

Genna will be pursuing a PhD in Drama at Queen Mary University of London. Her proposed doctoral research involves looking at depictions of women and members of the LGBTQIAP+ community with multiple sclerosis. She will also be producing new writing for live performance around the same topic.

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BRANDON FINN

2015 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

MSc in Urban Studies at University College, London

Brandon was awarded the FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar Scholarship to study an MSc in Urban Studies at University College London. The masters programme presented unique academic and personal challenges throughout the year – both of which have proven to be tremendous avenues from which to grow. Brandon conducted research as part of his dissertation in Rwanda's capital city, Kigali – fieldwork from which he is writing a paper on how better to integrate young people in the country's growing economy and political sphere. The scholarship provided Brandon with superb opportunities from which to build his academic base, focusing primarily on youth employment, urban infrastructure and democratic reform in African cities. Owed in large part to this scholarship, he has been admitted to study a PhD in Urban Planning at Harvard University. As a result of having the privilege of studying his masters in London, Brandon hopes to contribute grounded academic work in the future that improves the theory and practices of urban practitioners in African cities in the future.

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ESTHER CHRISTINE MCFARLANE

2015 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

International Comparative Education Master Program at Columbia University

In September 2015, Esther commenced her masters studies in international educational development at Teachers College, Columbia University in New York. The programme is designed to place educational problems within an international and comparative framework. It provides a unique platform for education researchers to engage with today's educational challenges through a multidisciplinary, international and cross-cultural approach, focused on both developed and developing countries.

Esther is currently contracted for a consultancy for the UNESCO liaison office at the United Nations headquarters. She is also a member of the United Nations Secretary General's Global Education First Initiative Youth Advocacy Group and represents the Secretary General's initiative at major education conferences across the globe as well as the UN General Assembly. She is a former Mandela Rhodes Scholar who studied a masters degree in educational policy and planning at the University of Cape Town. Before commencing her studies, Esther taught as a full-time teacher at Claremont High School, a science and mathematics-focus school specifically aimed at empowering disadvantaged learners. She has also been involved with school-based projects in various African countries. She hopes to return to South Africa after completing her degree and apply the expertise gained abroad to work towards positive change in the public education system.

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INGRID PENZHORN

2015 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

MSc in Global Mental Health at King's College London

Ingrid is currently completing an MSc in Neuroscience at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience at King's College London. Having had the privilege to learn from neuroscientists who are world leaders in their field, she has obtained a detailed understanding of the cellular and molecular underpinnings of the brain and its pathology. As part of the master's programme, she had the opportunity to work in a spinal cord injury laboratory, exploring novel treatment strategies for this debilitating condition. The positive experience in the laboratory has strongly reinforced her decision to crossover from a career in clinical medicine to pre-clinical research. Although the year in London has been an unforgettable challenge and adventure, she is ready to pack up her new skills set and return to her home at the foot of Table Mountain. She is currently considering pursuing a PhD in neurodegenerative disorders or applying for training as an anatomical pathologist.

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THATO MASIANGOAKO

2015 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

MSc in African Politics at the School of Oriental and African Studies

Thato holds a Bachelor of Arts (with distinction) from the University of the Witwatersrand and recently graduated with a joint honours degree in International Relations and Politics from the University of the Witwatersrand. Her thesis explored the tensions around what she refers to as the "internationalisation" of African elections by looking at the Kenya 2013 and Cote d'Ivoire 2010 elections. She has recently returned from pursuing an MSc in African Politics from the School of Oriental and African Studies (University of London) and is currently reading towards an MA in Politics at the University of the Witwatersrand.

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ANDREW LINDEN

2014 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

DPhil in Population Health, University of Oxford

Andrew is a Clarendon Scholar and a Fellow of the Actuarial Society of South Africa. He holds an MSc in Global Health Science from the University of Oxford and a MBus Sc in Actuarial Science from the University of Cape Town. Andrew is currently pursuing a DPhil in Population Health where his research aims to provide insight into the mechanisms underlying common diseases in ethnically diverse populations. Prior to Oxford, Andrew worked as an actuarial consultant in London, Stockholm and Cape Town.

He is passionate about experiencing new places and cultures, and has travelled to more than 50 countries, mostly in the developing world.

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GIFT PULE

2014 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

PhD in Stem Cell Research at the University of Cape Town and University of Montreal

Gift is a PhD student at the University of Cape Town working on stem cell modeling and molecular mechanisms of hydroxyurea treatment of sickle cell disease. Since starting his MSc in 2013, Gift has published in ten peer-reviewed articles and presented at over 15 national and international conferences. He is a pre-doctoral fellow in the Department of Molecular and Human Genetics at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, USA. He has had scholarships from the Mellon Mays Foundation, Mandela Rhodes, Fulbright, FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar and the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust. Gift will soon be submitting his doctoral thesis and joining Allan Gray as an investment analyst.

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MICHAEL SCHMID

2014 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

Masters in Micro and Nanotechnology Enterprise, Cambridge University

Michael completed his masters degree in nanotechnology enterprise at the University of Cambridge in July 2015. The masters course is one of its kind, combining an in-depth multidisciplinary scientific programme with a global perspective on the commercial opportunities and business practice necessary for the successful exploitation of innovation in micro- and nanotechnology. His masters thesis looked at commercialisation of graphene being used in 3D printing.

Through Michael's thesis work, he connected with a start-up producing advanced materials such as graphene and carbon nanotubes, where he is now heading up their business development work. He is using his mechanical engineering undergrad knowledge combined with his masters specialisation to identify key areas of development for new advanced materials.

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CHARLOTTE SLINGSBY

2013 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

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

Charlotte is an alumni of the University of Cape Town with a honours degree in electro-mechanical engineering. With the support of the FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship she completed a double masters in Innovation Design Engineering at the Royal College of Art and Imperial College London. This unique masters degree overlaps both engineering and design in every project and task undertaken.

As an engineer and entrepreneur, Charlotte views design as a powerful tool of transformation. With this mission in mind, she continues to pursue her projects that began in her masters and has started two companies in London dedicated to clean wind energy, Moya Power LTD and online security technology, Nettek. Moya Power is working together with Crossrail through their Innovate18 programme and has the amazing opportunity to test its wind energy harvesting potential in the underground train tunnels. Charlotte tutors graduate students part-time at the Royal College of Art. Keeping her to her home, in collaboration with the UCT Graduate School of Business, she has been lucky enough to facilitate a co-design project which brought a class of 50 London masters students to work with entrepreneurs from informal settlements across the Cape Flats, demonstrating how design and engineering can bring people together and improve business and individual wellbeing.

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MATTHEW GADD

2013 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

DPhil Engineering Science, Oxford University

Matt completed a BSc in Mechatronics at the University of Cape Town in 2012 and started reading for a DPhil in Engineering Science at Oxford's Keble College in Michaelmas 2013, now expecting to leave by the end of summer 2017.

Deploying fleets of semi-autonomous vehicles to bolster a developing country's transport and manufacturing infrastructure requires the intelligent sharing of navigation expertise, and to this end, his research has found its final form in the investigation of versioning frameworks and data sharing policies for the exchange of visual localisation experience amongst teams of robots.

Matt has grudgingly come to appreciate the English summer and has taken up slack-lining to make acquaintance with most of Oxford's tree population.

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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 in order 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.

Shahida says not a day goes by without her learning something new with each day being unique. She is honoured and blessed to be able to work at a university, which is only one of a very few which has attained excellence status. Working at the University of Cologne she is surrounded by the best researchers, who are world leaders in their fields; exposed on a daily basis to the newest and best available technologies; and is an integral part of research, which has a direct impact on the lives of patients and their families.


MATTHEW BUTLER-ADAM
2012 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship
*MSc in Economics for Development,
Oxford University*

Today, Matthew works as a senior associate consultant at Bain & Company where he has been involved in strategy work in mining, telecoms, private equity and banking. He has also been employed by various research groups including SALDRU, J-PAL, and IPA – involved in randomised control trials as well as cross-sectional and panel econometric analyses.

Matthew has two masters degrees – one from the University of Oxford (Economics for Development) for which he was awarded the Luca d'Agliano prize for the best dissertation, graduating top of his class. His second masters was awarded with distinction from the University of Cape Town (Applied Economics) where he was awarded the AW Mellon Foundation scholarship. His undergraduate degree was a PPE (politics, philosophy, and economics) which was awarded with distinction in all subjects. His research includes the effects of gender, race, and language on labour market outcomes; analyses of the intra-household allocation of resources; as well as the labour supply curves of South African sex workers. Matthew has been accepted, and will start, at Harvard University this fall. He will be studying a dual degree in education and business during a leave of absence from Bain.

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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 the most outstanding student on the MSc programme and a Computer Weekly-Search Security award for her dissertation on the cryptographic mechanisms used in transport ticketing. Thyla represented South Africa on the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) committee responsible for standardising cryptographic mechanisms and protocols for five years. Her contributions to this committee drew greatly on her experience as a former industry cryptographer. Thyla's research focuses on the security of protocols and she is currently completing a second industry placement at the Mozilla Corporation in the USA, where her work covers both internet and messaging protocols. Thyla remains active and is enjoying the rock climbing and hiking California has to offer.

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ANDREW PAVERD

2011 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

DPhil Computer Science, University of Oxford

In September 2015, Andrew submitted his DPhil thesis titled, *Enhancing Communication Privacy Using Trustworthy Remote Entities*, which presents a new approach for protecting users' privacy and, more broadly, establishing trust in next-generation digital communication systems, such as the smart energy grid. He successfully defended this thesis in February 2016. Andrew's doctoral work has subsequently formed the basis of a new research project at the University of Oxford, funded by Intel Corporation; he remains an active collaborator with the corporation. Prior to his DPhil, he completed his BSc and MSc degrees in Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand and the University of Cape Town, respectively.

Andrew has now moved to Helsinki, Finland, to take up a two-year post-doctoral research position in the Secure Systems Research Group at Aalto University. Earlier this year, a team for which he was the technical lead won the "Privacy via IT Security" European app development competition at the CeBIT 2016 exhibition in Germany. In addition to research, he has also enjoyed taking on teaching and supervision responsibilities, including remotely co-supervising a BSc Honours thesis at the University of Johannesburg.

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NKAZIMULO SOKHULU

2011 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

MBA, Columbia University

Nkazi is the chief operations officer and co-founding member at FNB Life, and is championing a number of innovations to change the life insurance industry; including achieving the fastest funeral claims payouts and allowing customers to digitally interact with their policies via online/app/cellphone banking. After working as the executive assistant to the CEO of Old Mutual, Nkazi cut his teeth in the company's long-term insurance distribution business division. He has worked as a management consultant and investment banker in five countries, and is a member of the Mandela Rhodes Foundation Finance Committee. Nkazi is a UCT finance undergraduate and obtained his MBA from Columbia University, which was made possible through the FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship.

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DAVID HOFMEYR

2010 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

*MA in Organisational Mathematics,
Edinburgh University*

After completing his MSc at Edinburgh, David moved to Lancaster University to pursue a PhD at the STOR-i (STatistics and Operations Research) centre for doctoral training. His PhD research focused on unsupervised machine learning. Machine learning lies at the interface of statistics and computer science, and is concerned with designing algorithms which extract useful information from (often vast amounts of) data. The term “unsupervised” essentially means that the data contains no explicit details regarding how information should be extracted. It is, therefore, especially challenging in this case to determine if the information found is, in fact, correct, or even useful.

David completed his PhD in November last year and has since taken up a one year post-doctoral fellowship position at Lancaster. Highlights from this year have included an invitation to present his work at the High Dimensional Big Data Engineering workshop at Cambridge University and delivering a paper at one of the top artificial intelligence conferences in New York in July.

This year has also allowed David to get a taste of some of the other aspects of an academic career as he has taken on an unofficial co-supervisory role of another STOR-i PhD students, was involved in refereeing papers for the top machine learning conference, and will be a committee member for a workshop at the Big Data conference being held in December.

While the location of Lancaster in North West England still holds great appeal for its proximity to the beautiful countryside and the opportunities that allows for hiking, running and cycling, David can’t wait to return to South Africa, with its real outdoors and its real summers.

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DAVID WATSON

2010 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

MPhil in Civil Law, Oxford University

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

Dave now practices as an advocate and is a member of Thulamela Chambers. His practice is a mixture of public and private law. Recent cases that he has been involved in include: a case deciding the limits on plea bargains entered into by the NPA and accused persons; a case determining the rights of a local council seeking to develop an informal housing settlement in a suburban area; a case determining the correct manner to value capital gains for the purpose of taxation; and acting for an *amicus curiae* in a case on the constitutionality of the statute regulating the Independent Police Investigative Directorate.

Dave also appears in commercial arbitrations and similar litigation covering topics such as contractual disputes, professional liability claims, and financing arrangements. Dave also performs *pro bono* work. Long running matters include representing residents in a land dispute with a traditional authority, acting for counsel accused of misconduct and assisting Khoi and San communities in strategic litigation to advance the rights of first nation peoples in South Africa.

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BEN WINKS

2009 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

Advanced LLM, Leiden University

After graduating cum laude from Leiden University with an advanced master's degree in international law (specialising in peace, justice and development) in 2010, Ben spent a year serving as a judges' clerk at the Constitutional Court of South Africa. He then completed his articles and practiced as an attorney at Webber Wentzel until January 2016, when he joined the international law firm, Herbert Smith Freehills, and helped to establish its Johannesburg office. In August 2016, Ben started practising as an independent legal consultant, specialising in constitutional law and international law, with a leaning towards defending the underdog against bullying behaviour (whether from governments, corporations or influential individuals). Ben values the freedom and flexibility his new role affords him to undertake more *pro bono* work and academic study (as a visiting researcher at the University of Johannesburg), as well as spending more time with his wonderful wife and six-month old son.



MARYKE BAILEY

2009 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

MPhil in Intellectual History, University of Sussex

Maryke thoroughly enjoyed the last year. She embraced the lifestyle of a freelancer and picked up a variety of projects. Her main projects included lecturing and tutoring at Wits School of Education and catching a glimpse of Namibian education by working for Pearson Namibia. As of June 2016, Maryke has been working for Instill Education as director of academics. Instill Education is in the process of setting up an exciting new PGCE (postgraduate certificate in education) programme, while delivering relevant and practical professional development to schools.

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LUCY CORKIN

2008 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

PhD in Political Science, School of Oriental and African Studies

Lucy completed her PhD in Political Science from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) University of London in 2011, funded by the FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar Scholarship. Her work was published by Ashgate as *Uncovering Agency: Angola's Management of China's Credit Lines*. Following a brief post-doc at the BRICS Policy Centre in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Lucy joined RMB's prestigious Class of Programme in 2012, through which she has rotated through various divisions at RMB, including a stint at RMB Westport, a private equity firm specialising in real estate development in West Africa. Her passion for all things Africa will see her take up the role of business manager at RMB Africa from 1 September 2016.

Lucy continues to dabble in academia and has been known to write the odd think piece and make cameo appearances at conferences on international relations and specifically African countries' relations with China, the latest being the Raisina Dialogues held in New Delhi, India's foremost conference on foreign affairs. When not gallivanting across the globe, she can be seen gambolling in the garden with her one year-old, Kai.

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GUS WASCHEFORT

2007 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

PhD in Law, School of Oriental and African Studies

Gus' passion is divided equally between the law of armed conflict (a branch of international law) and the visual documentation of human rights abuses, specifically during armed conflict, through photography. He spent four years of his career working as a professional freelance photojournalist and has, in the course of his work as both legal academic and photographer, travelled to around fifty countries on four continents, including active armed conflict zones such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and Liberia. Gus remains active as a photographer and is an officially appointed X-Photographer (brand ambassador) for Fujifilm.

At present Gus is engaged in a long-term research project focusing on the role of the law of armed conflicts in Africa. In this regard Gus argues that the law of armed conflict maintains a very low profile on the African continent: "There are two sides to this coin – on the one side law of armed conflict issues do not feature prominently in the armed conflict debate within Africa... On the flipside, African states and African people do not participate, in a significant manner, in the global debate".

Gus was awarded his PhD (with no corrections required) by the University of London (SOAS), and his revised thesis was recently published as a monograph by Hart Publishing in Oxford under the title *International Law and Child Soldiers*. He is currently an associate professor in the Department of Public, Constitutional and International Law at the University of South Africa and previously served as legal advisor to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial summary or arbitrary executions. Gus presently serves as Co-Rapporteur of the International Human Rights Law Committee of the International Law Association, is the co-editor in chief of the South African Yearbook of International Law and serves on editorial boards of a number of journals both locally and internationally. A highlight during the past year was the three months that he spent in Sweden as a visiting researcher and at the Swedish National Defence College.



CHRISTIE DORFLING
2007 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship
<i>MSc in Engineering, Cambridge University</i>

Christie is currently a lecturer at the Department of Process Engineering at Stellenbosch University. His career in academia allows him to pursue his passions for teaching and research. His research focuses on process development and process improvement for the recovery of base and precious metals. His most recent projects evaluate processing options for the recovery of metals such as copper and gold from electronic waste: metal recycling from waste will become increasingly important from an economic and environmental management perspective. In his spare time, Christie enjoys exploring the Stellenbosch surroundings

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MOMENTUM DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP



MLULEKI SHONGWE

2013 Momentum Dippenaar scholarship

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

Mluleki is the associate general counsel at HSBC Bank – Johannesburg Branch and a tutor for the law of contract course at Unisa.

He specialises in banking, finance and capital markets transactions. He was awarded the scholarship to study an LLM in Finance and Law at the Duisenberg School of Finance in the Netherlands, which he completed in 2014.

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

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LEANNE BRADY

2011 Momentum Dippenaar scholarship

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

Leanne completed her MSc in Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 2012. Since then, she has worked in both a public health and clinical capacity in a number of different settings in South Africa, Swaziland, Malawi, India and Sierra Leone. She has a specific interest in social justice and developing equitable health systems in low resource settings. Leanne is currently a research fellow at the Health Policy and Systems Division at the University of Cape Town where she is working on a health systems strengthening project in partnership with the provincial Department of Health. The project aims to understand the way the South African health system has changed since apartheid. A new area of her work involves exploring the use of multimedia in health systems research. She will be presenting her photo-essay, *#morethanebola*, at the Health Systems global conference in Vancouver in November.

She is also part of a street photography collective, *@therealcityofcapetown*, which recently had a thought provoking exhibition in Cape Town, and has produced an independent publication of the images. She is also part of a documentary film collective known as the *SpeakEasy* and is currently doing a course in creative documentary filmmaking. Her first documentary *The Frame and the Flower*, a short film about the lives of two transgender sex-workers living in Cape Town will be screened at the Health Systems Global conference. She is currently putting together a PhD proposal that will use film and photography to better understand health systems resilience.

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TRACEY MILLIN

2010 Momentum Dippenaar scholarship

*MSc Education: Language, Theory and Practice at Edinburgh University
Currently: visiting academic fellow,
Otago University, New Zealand*

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

Given the positive outcome of her study, and with a generous post-doctoral fellowship from the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust, Tracey is currently working on furthering her research in academic literacy development at the Higher Education Development Centre at the University of Otago, New Zealand. Tracey has big dreams of returning to South Africa and consulting with farmers in the Winelands and Overberg region to help address low academic achievement of children in the area.

In her spare time, Tracey still loves to hit the trails with her hubby in and around Dunedin and hopes to find time to go snowboarding too.

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KYLA BRADY

2009 Momentum Dippenaar scholarship

*PhD Stem Cell Research,
Bristol University*

Kyla completed her PhD in Stem Cell Biology at the University of Bristol in 2014. She then relocated to the University of Liverpool to take up a position as a postdoctoral research associate at the Institute of Integrative Biology. She is leading the University of Liverpool partner research project for a grant funded by Innovate UK for further development of a stem cell-based product to repair meniscal tears for clinical trial purposes. Specifically, this work is focused on identifying predictive markers of stem cells that are indicative of their ability to promote tissue integration and thereby mediate repair. In addition, she is investigating a range of biomaterials to test their suitability to act as a scaffold for these cells as well as their handling ability for surgical application.

She is enjoying the unique opportunity to be involved in a project that links fundamental academic research through to commercialisation of a product for clinical application. Kyla is looking forward to attending the International Cartilage Repair Society conference in Sorrento later this year. Time away from science is spent adventuring around with her two sausage dogs and enjoying the beaches and countryside of the Wirral peninsula.

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DOMINIQUE SCHAFER

2008 Momentum Dippenaar scholarship

*MSc in African Studies,
Oxford University*

Dominique lives in Gonubie, East London and works for RB Africa – a small but dynamic consultancy that is committed to a prosperous, legally compliant, internationally competitive South Africa. She works with management and unions to implement people-centred, performance-driven workplace solutions that improve performance and promote employee relations stability. It is a challenging and constantly evolving area of work. In our current political and economic climate, it is more critical than ever that companies and unions work together to ensure economic sustainability and job security.

On the weekends you will find her park running, trail running, painting or visiting the Transkei with her husband.

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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 a CA(SA) towards the beginning of 2013 he moved to a private equity/infrastructure fund, Pembani Remgro Infrastructure Managers, as part of the fund's deal team.

The fund aims to make investments into infrastructure and related companies on the African continent. Willem spends a lot of time travelling other African countries in search of opportunities for the fund to invest in.

Beyond work he is a keen sportsman and still plays cricket and tennis frequently, along with participating in a few endurance triathlons and trail running events.

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FIRSTRAND ASSISTANCE BURSARIES



SYDELLE SMITH

2014 FirstRand assistance bursary

MSc in African Studies, Oxford University

Sydelle Willow Smith is a documentary photographer and filmmaker, and the co-founder of Sunshine Cinema. In 2014 she was awarded a bursary to study at the University of Oxford where she completed an MSc in African Studies focusing on youth media advocacy through St Antony's College. Since graduating she has been focusing on developing Sunshine Cinema – an African solar powered mobile cinema that uses media to create dialogue and community engagement. Sunshine Cinema has grown from strength to strength, recently hosting satellite screenings for the prestigious Encounters Documentary Film Festival in townships across Cape Town. In July 2016, Sunshine Cinema was a media partner of the Open Society Foundation's Public Health Program at the 21st International AIDS conference in Durban.

Hosting screenings of documentaries focusing on the role of female activists in the struggle against HIV/AIDS, community-based theatre performances and media training with local filmmakers in four townships, the organisation travelled across South Africa for ten days, turning solar power into social impact. Sydelle works with her husband, Rowan Pybus, as a partner in Makhulu productions. They have been making short films, photo essays and running media training workshops with CRF. Utilising her skills in participatory visual research, media training, film production and photography, Sunshine Cinema focuses on utilising media advocacy to enhance social dialogue. In 2016 Smith was shortlisted for the prestigious Desmond Tutu Fellowship for her work as a social activist.

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DEENA DINAT

2013 FirstRand assistance bursary

MA in English Literature, University of British Columbia

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

Deena is currently at the beginning of his second year of a PhD at the University of British Columbia. His work in preparation for his dissertation considers the postcolonial South African state, particularly questions around how and when the nation is posited as political, cultural, and aesthetic project in the wake of the liberation movement. How has the nation been constructed, from a future-yet-to-be to the historical-present? How has South African literature grappled with the promise of the nation to come, and then the nation that is?

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

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TIFFANY EBRAHIM

2013 FirstRand assistance bursary

MSc in Gender, Sexuality and Society, Amsterdam University

Tiffany is a researcher at the Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa (SERI). She completed her Masters degree in Sociology, specialising in gender studies, at the University of Amsterdam in 2015 and has an Honours degree in Political studies from the University of the Witwatersrand.

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ALEXANDRA HALLIGEY

2012 FirstRand assistance bursary

MA in Performance Studies, New York University

Alex Halligey is currently pursuing her PhD in Drama through the University of Cape Town's Drama Department and the African Centre for Cities. She is researching, through her own performance practice, the ways in which drama and theatre as public art in Johannesburg might help to explore the relationship between people and the built environment. She teaches part-time at the Market Theatre Laboratory and the Wits Theatre and Performance Division and writes for daily radio soap opera, Radio Vuka, flighted on SAfm. Outside of her research she works with environmental activism theatre company, Well Worn Theatre, and continues to make her own performance work.

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JESSICA BENJAMIN

2012 FirstRand assistance bursary

MA in Public Administration, Columbia University

After two years working in consulting/research in New York, Jessica is eager to get back into the world of development economics and social impact. She is currently taking a few months off to travel through Africa and Asia Pacific before diving into the next chapter.

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NGOVUYO GUGUSHE

2012 FirstRand assistance bursary

MA in Finance, Cambridge University

Ngovuyo completed his Master of Finance degree at Cambridge University in 2013. He grew up in Cape Town with his mother and four older siblings. During his years in school, Ngovuyo enjoyed and excelled at jazz trombone being selected on a number of occasions to the National Schools Big Band at the Grahamstown Jazz Festival. He also performed on two occasions at the Cape Town Jazz Festival with the Cape Town based youth jazz group, The Little Giants. Ngovuyo had another passion alongside his love of jazz music: finance. He went on to study Business Science at the University of Cape Town (UCT) focusing on finance and economics. He continued to play jazz and ventured into jazz composition, with two of his compositions being recorded. After completing his degree at UCT, he joined the South African Reserve Bank on their graduate programme. After a year, he left and joined RMB FICC team as a trader. This is where he stayed until he left to pursue his postgraduate degree at St Edmund's College, Cambridge University. Ngovuyo completed his masters degree in 2013 and returned to RMB in 2014 as a transactor in their corporate finance division. He then moved on to work in the investment team of RMBH/RMIH

focusing on general financial services and FinTech investments both locally and abroad.

Ngovuyo currently works for the CEO of Royal Bafokeng Holdings (RBH) and as a strategic investment manager. He has been with RBH for one year and focuses on strategic projects for the CEO and also looks after the investment firm's financial services, healthcare, mining services, oil and gas infrastructure, and a portion of the general infrastructure investment strategies/investments. His work at RBH fulfils both his passions for finance

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ROBERT FREEMAN

2012 FirstRand assistance bursary

*MA in Issues in Modern Culture,
University College London*

Having completed his Masters in English Literature at University College London, Robert worked for the United Nations Nansen Initiative on cross-border climate displacement. Subsequently, he returned to South Africa to finish his law degree and is currently working as a law clerk for Justice Sisi Khamepe at the Constitutional Court. Robert's interests include cricket, ultimate frisbee and bad puns. Robert's future plans involve doing a PhD and travelling extensively.

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ZOË LINCOLN

2011 FirstRand assistance bursary

*MSc in Sustainable Energy Systems,
Edinburgh University*

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

Keeping a hand in research, Zoë was honoured to be selected to present her work on strategic small scale renewables at the 2015 Cigré symposium and was given the 2015/16 Eskom Managers' Award for Excellence for related work.

Committed to encouraging school children and students – especially girls – to consider a career in engineering and other STEM fields, Zoë continues to be involved in the Schools' Expo for Young Scientists, the Hope Scholarship Network, the Young Professionals of the International Electrotechnical Commission, and various mentoring initiatives coordinated by the South African Women in Science and Engineering.

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ABIGAIL MARCUS

2010 FirstRand assistance bursary

MA in Law, New York University

Abigail Marcus attended the NYU School of Law for the Masters in Law degree (LLM) and graduated in 2011. Subsequently she successfully sat the Bar examination and became an admitted attorney of the New York State Bar. She worked as a volunteer attorney at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, a federal agency, and then as an analyst for management consultancy, Blaqwell. In 2014 Abigail joined the New York office of Latham & Watkins, a multinational law firm which ranked first in the AmLaw100 this year. At Latham, Abigail works in the banking and finance team.

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HANNAH DE WET

2010 FirstRand assistance bursary

MA Development Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam

Hannah Lindiwe Diaz (nee de Wet) is currently the programme manager: executive short courses for the Graduate School for Development Policy and Practice (GSDPP) at the University of Cape Town. Hannah holds a BA Hons in Anthropology from Rhodes University and a MA in Development Studies, specialised in poverty studies and social policy from the Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam.

Prior to joining the GSDPP, Hannah worked as a senior social consultant at EOH Coastal and Environmental Services where she undertook and oversaw research relating to the socio-economic impacts of planned change resulting from large development initiatives. Prior to that Hannah worked at the Public Service Accountability Monitor as a programme officer in the regional learning programme; this involved working extensively with a range of civil society organisations, identifying their capacity needs and building their capacity through designing and delivering a range of training courses focusing on rights-based monitoring and advocacy across South and southern Africa.

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INKA SCHOMER

2010 FirstRand assistance bursary

MSc Environmental Change Management, Oxford University

Inka Schomer holds an MSc in Environmental Change and Management from Oxford University and completed a postgraduate degree at the University of Cape Town with majors in Economics and Environmental Management. She is currently back at the World Bank in Washington DC in a new position, after spending the past year working extensively in West Africa on gender issues in energy access projects. Her new role requires her to work with the transport, water and energy sectors, clean cooking agenda and World Bank lending operations to tackle the gaps between men and women in access to e.g. economic opportunities, decision making and agency. She loves nothing more than learning how mini-grids function in remote areas, listening to how solar products changed individuals' daily lives and seeing what challenges governments face across the African continent. In addition to her interest in gender equality, Inka is keeping her passion for food and agriculture alive by interning at a bakery in DC and just led a four-month agriculture programme for over 40 young women in the Stellenbosch area in collaboration with the Sustainability Institute. The programme focused on hands-on agriculture training, CV and career mentorship, and field trips to a wheat farm and Spier to expose the young women to the various opportunities available in the sector.

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SIMON MARCUS

2010 FirstRand assistance bursary

MA Philosophy, New York University

Simon Marcus won a FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar award in 2010. He attended New York University for the Masters in Philosophy and graduated in 2013. Towards the end of his studies Simon was an adjunct instructor for the course Texts and Ideas in the NYU College of Arts and Science. Thereafter, he worked as a consultant for TED Conferences on editorial, analytics and brand strategy. Subsequently he has consulted to K2, a corporate intelligence agency, and to the Clinton Global Initiative.

Simon passed the first CFA exam last year and is now a candidate for the CFA Level II.

In 2016, Simon founded a tech startup, Pippa, which is building a podcast advertising marketplace. Pippa connects podcasters and advertisers to make their content more effective and profitable.

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

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