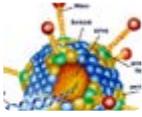


## in this issue



President Obama in SA



Alumni Making the News



The Passionate Professional



New Alumni on the Block

# Alumni **connex**

THE NEWSLETTER FOR U.S.-S.A. EXCHANGE ALUMNI

■ issue 6 ■ september 2013

## President Obama in South Africa

### President Obama Visits South Africa: Strengthens Bilateral Relations, Ups the Ante for Young African Leaders, and Highlights the Economic Progress of an Africa that's Rising

President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama, along with daughters Malia and Sasha, kicked off their 3-country African tour by visiting Senegal before heading to our friendly shores in June this

year. The President had formerly visited South Africa while serving as a member of the U.S. Congress in 2006. This was his first trip to South Africa as President, and what a warm welcome he received!

To see how South Africans chose to welcome President Obama, watch the video: <http://tinyurl.com/welcomeobama>

In Gauteng, President Obama held bilateral meetings and a press conference with President Zuma, met with Africa Union Chairperson, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, and held a town hall with young African leaders at the University of Johannesburg's (UJ) Soweto Campus. In the Western Cape, the President, along with his family, visited Robben Island and former President Nelson Mandela's prison cell. President Obama also attended a community health event at the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation Youth Centre, and delivered remarks at the University of Cape Town (UCT).

At the town hall held at UJ, President Obama connected with promising young African leaders from South Africa in the audience, and via satellite, from Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda. The event was interactive with the President



President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama participate in an official arrival ceremony with South African President Jacob Zuma and First Lady Thobeka Madiba-Zuma at the Union Buildings in Pretoria, South Africa, June 29, 2013. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

>> Continued on page 2

# President Obama in South Africa

>> *Continued from page 1*

taking pertinent questions, highlighting promising leaders in the audience, and speaking of the potential of the continent. The President also used the town hall event to announce the Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, the new flagship program of the President's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). The Fellowship will bring over 500 young leaders to the U.S. every year, beginning in 2014, for leadership training and mentoring. The program will invest in a new generation of African leaders shaping the future of the continent.

To learn more about YALI and the Washington Fellowship, see: <http://youngafricanleaders.state.gov>

To watch the President's town hall, watch the video at: <http://tinyurl.com/yalitownhall>

To read about UJ's take on the event, see: <http://tinyurl.com/ujop-ed>

While in Johannesburg, First Lady Michelle Obama hosted a lively Google+ Hangout town hall on the importance of education with youth at the Sci-Bono Discovery Centre. The Google+ Hangout allowed for students in South Africa to connect with students across the U.S. Singer and songwriter John Legend – who's passionate about improving education – joined from Los Angeles. And singer and actress, Victoria Justice – who works with an organization called Girl Up that empowers girls around the world – beamed in from Houston. The First Lady encouraged youth to dream big and to use technology to improve their education.

To read the First Lady's Travel Journal, see: <http://tinyurl.com/flotusjournal>

While delivering remarks at UCT in the Western Cape, President Obama highlighted the important influence of President Mandela on his own personal political awakenings. President Obama also reflected on the economic progress and promise of the African continent, "from micro-finance projects in Kampala, to stock traders in Lagos, to cell phone entrepreneurs in Nairobi, there is an energy here that can't be denied – Africa rising." The President also touched on the challenges that confront us and his hope for Africa.

>> *Continued on page 3*



President Barack Obama answers questions during a Young African Leaders Initiative Town Hall at the University of Johannesburg Soweto campus in Johannesburg, South Africa, June 29, 2013. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)



First Lady Michelle Obama and participants take a group photo following a Google + Hangout on education at the Sci-Bono Discovery Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa, June 29, 2013. (Official White House Photo by Chuck Kennedy)



President Barack Obama waves to the crowd after delivering a speech at the University of Cape Town in Cape Town, South Africa, June 30, 2013. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

# President Obama in South Africa

>> Continued from page 2

The President's speech at UCT can be read at: <http://tinyurl.com/uctspeech> or watch the video at: <http://tinyurl.com/uctvideo>

For UCT's take on the event read: <http://tinyurl.com/uctop-ed>



President Barack Obama greets Archbishop Desmond Tutu as he arrives at the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation Youth Centre in Cape Town, South Africa, June 30, 2013. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)



President Barack Obama talks with students in a health education class while touring the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation Youth Centre in Cape Town, South Africa, June 30, 2013. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

## In Their Own Words: The President's Visit

### What the YALI Town Hall Meant to Me Personally

By Lebo Bogopane

**Lebo Bogopane was mentioned by President Obama in his speech at the UJ Town Hall. She leads the Mothotlung Network Against Domestic Violence which renders victim empowerment services to abused women and children across 15 rural villages of the Madibeng municipality in North West Province. Lebo will be departing for the U.S. in October to participate in the U.S. Department of State Professional Fellows: Women Economic Empowerment Program at Michigan State University.**

As I write this, I remember when I received the call from Country Public Affairs Officer, Karl Stoltz, inviting me to the town hall event with President Barack Obama. At that moment, I cried, I screamed, and am not embarrassed to say it – I never slept that evening. I prayed that Karl would not call back to tell me he made a mistake. He did not call back, and the next day was the beginning of a new journey for me, one I was excited to take; seeing the President of a country I deeply love and respect with my own two eyes.

When President Barack Obama stepped in the room, oh my, what beautiful memories!

I said a little prayer in my heart. Even today, I still cannot explain the feeling of seeing President Barack Obama with my own eyes; not on TV, or in a magazine, but in the flesh. I was excited like all the young African leaders; we welcomed him the "Mzantzi" way with a youthful chorus.

The highlight of it all was when the President thanked me and acknowledged my hard work and dedication to serving my community.

When he asked me to stand up, my heart and my head agreed that this was a moment I had been longing for – a confirmation that I am doing right by myself and my community. Because of that moment, I am known by many people and also highly respected. The people of Mothotlung and the Province at large are proud of me. When I came back from the YALI event, I was welcomed by my local leaders, young and old, as well as a parade motorcade to show how excited they were for me and how happy they are with the recognition that Mothotlung is receiving.

Today I can safely say, I am a role model to many in Mothotlung, a sign of hope that if I made it to the extent of being acknowledged by a powerful man,

they too have nothing standing in their way of achieving success. I am more confident and focused; I am working harder than ever and the President's words are a continuous motivation. I am no longer that vulnerable hungry child who was homeless; I am a strong, independent, self-driven woman who is determined to break the silence.

I am happy and my community is proud of me. Thank you President Obama, and thank you to the amazing people of the USA. Through our strong partnership, you have made it possible for us to achieve success against all odds. You believed in my team and me when no one else did, and for that we are grateful.



>> Continued on page 4

# In Their Own Words: The President's Visit

>> Continued from page 3

## I Finally Saw President Obama

By Joonji Mdyogolo

*Joonji Mdyogolo is a 2011-2012 Hubert. H. Humphrey Fellowship alumna. During her fellowship, she was hosted by the University of Maryland, College Park, where she focused on communications and journalism. Joonji is a writer, journalist, and editor based out of Cape Town, Western Cape.*



The first time I had a chance to see and hear United States President Barack Obama speak; my plans were scuppered by the Secret Service – those stern men and women in dark clothes with even darker expressions. It was my fault, really. I was late for the President's Memorial Day Lecture at the Arlington Cemetery, and all the entryways to the amphitheater, where President Obama was to make his speech, had been sealed.

**... there was the energy and fervor in his speech that reinvigorated everyone.**

This all happened in May 2012 in the dying months of my time based in Maryland as a Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow, between August 2011 and June 2012. I, like many fellows I'm sure, had on my list of important things to do while in the U.S., an opportunity to meet or at least listen to the President make a speech live.

All I got to see, once the speech was finished was the empty auditorium. I went to stand at the podium and sat on one of the two chairs on the stage, where I imagined the President and his wife, First Lady Michelle Obama would have sat.

So, naturally, I snapped up the chance to listen to him speak when he visited Cape Town, South Africa during his 2013 Africa Tour between June 27th and July 2nd.

He delivered his remarks on June 30th at the University of Cape Town, pointing out, to audience applause, that years ago this scene would have been unlikely: "It would have seemed inconceivable to people at that time - that less than 50 years later, an African American President might address an integrated audience, at South Africa's oldest university, and that this same university would have conferred an honorary degree to a President, Nelson Mandela. It would have seemed impossible."

I would have been happy with the pretty prose and inspirational rhetoric. I think in South Africa, the sparkle of the President has diminished somewhat. Just making our way into the event there was a group of "NObarack" protesters outside at the university. And admittedly my own enthusiasm has waned as the novelty of his historic appointment has become familiar.

But there was the energy and fervor in his speech that reinvigorated everyone. I was impressed that President Obama talked of the South Africa and Africa of today – where we are a partner, and not just a beneficiary in our relationship. And what he proposed sounded like concrete ideas to carry this relationship into the future.

"Now we're going to talk about power – Power Africa – a new initiative that will double access to power in sub-Saharan Africa. Double it," he explained. "We're going to start by investing \$7 billion in U.S. government resources... We'll reach more households not just in cities, but in villages and on farms. We'll expand access for those who live currently off the power grid."

This time I came out of my Obama encounter with a little bit more than a picture to mark the occasion. I also felt a sense of excitement for the future of the relationship of both our countries.

**... President Obama talked of the South Africa and Africa of today – where we are a partner ...**

## My Trip to Sci-Bono

By Gift Mashilwane



*Gift Mashilwane is a high school student and member of the Mae Jemison U.S. Science Reading Room*

My name is Gift Mashilwane and I attend Hoërskool F.H. Odendaal. I am also a member of the Mae Jemison U.S. Science Reading Room in Mamelodi East. My fellow students and I were very privileged to meet First Lady Michelle Obama at the Sci-Bono conference centre in Newtown Johannesburg on June 29th, 2013. During the program we had a chance to speak about issues affecting education, with guest speakers from South Africa and the United States of America – streaming live via the internet.

My favorite part of the event was getting to see the First Lady, and the whole discussion was a highlight for me. What I took back home was that no matter the circumstances you are in, you are meant to be much greater than that. You hold the key to your future and no one can force you to open that door – you do it yourself. Most importantly, change in your community is not made by your thoughts but by the action of your thoughts!



*First Lady Michelle Obama participates in a Google+ Hangout on education at the Sci-Bono Discovery Center in Johannesburg, South Africa, June 29, 2013. (Official White House Photo by Chuck Kennedy)*

To learn more about the Sci-Bono Discovery Centre see: <http://www.sci-bono.co.za/>

# Condolences



On July 24th, 2013 former Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court of South Africa, Pius Nkoko Langa, passed away in Johannesburg, Gauteng. Justice Langa was an esteemed alumnus of the U.S. Government International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), having participated in 1980 and 1992 respectively.

The U.S. Mission to South Africa would like to extend heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Chief Justice Langa.

The U.S. Mission joins South Africa in mourning the loss of one of its most pre-eminent sons and jurists. Chief Justice Langa will be remembered for his profound contribution to South Africa and his service to the nation. May we continue to celebrate his life and great achievements.

## A Tribute to Chief Justice Pius Langa

By James Fowkes



*James Fowkes is a 2009 Fulbright alumnus. He received his LLM from Yale University's Law School in 2010. In 2008, James clerked for Justice Johann van der Westhuizen at the South African Constitutional Court. Currently, James is a JSD Candidate at Yale and a Visiting Scholar at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public and International Law, Heidelberg, Germany.*

The term 'public servant' used to denote forced convict labor. By the 17th century, however, it had evolved from a label for those compelled to work for society because they had broken the law, to the meaning we know today, a title for those who take the public's work

***Mountains do not need to pretend to gravity.***

upon themselves. To no-one is the title of public servant more appropriate than the late Pius Nkoko Langa, second Chief Justice of the South African Constitutional Court, who passed away last month.

Others, who knew him well, have written his obituaries. I write with the presumption of much greater distance. I study the Constitution he worked to build; and I served as a clerk at the Court in 2008, so he was my Chief Justice.

As a result, I have the great pleasure of knowing that, along with everything else, he had enviable comic timing. His humor, always delivered deadpan, could crack up a roomful of clerks. In March of 2008, when some legal points arising out of then-Mr Zuma's corruption prosecution were before the Court, the hearing on the second day ran very late. In the darkening courtroom, Justice Skweyiya impishly suggested that the Justices might be able to ask for overtime. The Chief Justice, without a flicker in his customary seriousness, intoned 'The request is denied', and the whole tired chamber dissolved into laughter. Later that eventful year, we watched on TV as he swore in the newly elected President Kgalema Motlanthe in Parliament. Where another man might have sought to appear as important as possible, Chief Justice Langa began proceedings by noting that he had never done this before, and so he

***They remember him, as I do, with utmost respect, as that rare thing, a modest person with so much to be immodest about.***

and Parliament could learn it together. Mountains do not need to pretend to gravity.

His story is extraordinary, like his times. We should pause to ask: has there ever been another Chief Justice, anywhere in the world, who started on the first rung of his legal system, as a court translator, and quietly climbed his way to the very top?

Others have paid due tribute to his tireless contributions to the administration of justice and to South African law. They remember him, as I do, with utmost respect, as that rare thing, a modest person with so much to be immodest about.

To this writer, who watched him from below as a new law graduate, it is impossible to separate his legal thought from the law he embodied. When I think of procedural fairness, or of access to justice, I think of his courtesy, his willingness to listen in oral argument, his desire that all voices be heard. When I think of dignity, I think simply of the man. South Africa has lost a great public servant, and we can only be grateful that he gave so much of himself to us while he was here.

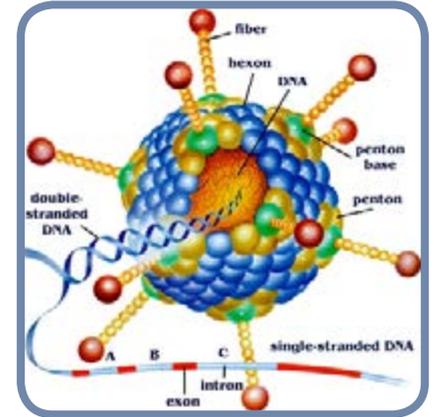
# Alumni Making the News

## African Research Rising: One Step Closer to a Malaria Cure

Dr. Kelly Chibale, a 2007 Fulbright Scholar alumnus, and UCT Professor, along with his team of researchers has recently been awarded the 2012 Project of the Year by the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV). The team has carried out groundbreaking work towards a single-dose cure for malaria. Dr. Chibale is particularly proud of the fact that brilliant African scientists are making such pioneering leaps in the

fight against the disease that kills up to a million people every year. The clinical testing of the compound discovered by Dr. Chibale's team will take place at UCT's new clinical research facility at Groote Schuur which is expected to open in October this year.

Congratulations to Dr. Chibale and his team. *To read more see:* <http://tinyurl.com/chibale> and <http://tinyurl.com/mmvmchibale>



## Fulbright Alumna Scoops SADC Gender in Media Institutions Award



Ms. Maud Bloose, a 2009 Fulbright alumna, and lecturer at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) recently scooped up the SADC Gender in Media Institutions Award in recognition of her work which had led to the incorporation of gender-related issues in the journalism curriculum at DUT. Ms. Bloose is committed to raising awareness about gender-related

issues with her journalism students, particularly highlighting the need to analyze gender representation or misrepresentation in South African media.

Congratulations to Ms. Bloose on winning this prestigious award. *To read more see:* <http://tinyurl.com/maudbloose>

## Using Indigenous Knowledge and Science: Organic Crops for Rural Areas

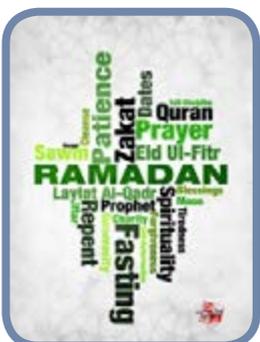
Dr. Albert Modi, a 1996 Fulbright alumnus, and Dean: School of Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) has been working with the Ezemvelo Farmers' Organization near Umbumbulu to develop self-sustaining community vegetable gardens. Dr. Modi has worked closely with communities to combine the application of indigenous knowledge with scientific practices to create and develop crop-producing local gardens.

Dr. Modi says that "by tapping into indigenous knowledge practices and by applying simple biodiversity management principles, rural communities can contribute towards the local economy and improve their quality of life, while enhancing the state of the environment."

To read more about this project, see the article as it appeared in *The Witness*, 23 July 2013.



## Reflecting on Ramadaan: Personal Sacrifice and Community



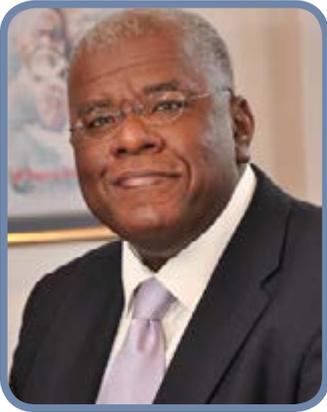
Dr. Tahir Sitoto, a 2005 Fulbright alumnus, and Lecturer in Islamic and Religious Studies at UKZN offered his reflections on the significance of Ramadaan on a personal and collective level. Dr Sitoto states that "it would seem that Ramadaan

does entrench a delicate balance between self-transformation and social imperatives."

See Dr. Sitoto's article as it appeared in *The Mercury*, 8 August 2013.

# Alumni Making the News

## Being a Modern Leader: The Value of Emotion



Professor Jonathan Jansen, 2007 Fulbright Scholar alumnus, Rector and Vice-Chancellor at the University of the Free State (UFS), at a recent conference held in Pietermaritzburg and organized by the Independent Schools Association of South Africa encouraged educators to challenge stereotypical perceptions of leadership, and embrace the concept of emotional leadership. According to Prof. Jansen, “People need to trust you as one who is close to them in

periods of wellness and crisis. It’s not so much about physical proximity as emotional and spiritual closeness. Nearness is a crucial asset in the transformation process ... kids will remember you not for what you taught, but how you were as a human being.”

To read more on Prof. Jansen’s conference address, see the article as it appeared in *The Witness*, 10 August 2013.

## Cine-Ndaba Team Awarded AEIF



Congratulations to team-lead, Deborah Vieyra, and her Cine-Ndaba group on their selection for an Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund Award. Deborah, a 2012 Fulbright alumna, put forward the winning proposal for Cine-Ndaba, a video-documentary intervention that will aim to create the necessary environment for women in Khayelitsha township who have been affected by gender-based violence to empower themselves. The project will foster participatory engagement in a community fraught with unemployment and violence by democratizing access to the tools for gender activism.



*Cine-Ndaba Project Coordinator, Deborah Vieyra and Alumni Coordinator, Jaclyn Burger*

# The Power Of ... The Passionate Professional



*On July 18th, our country, and the world, celebrated Mandela Day; many dedicated 67 minutes of their time to public service and/or volunteerism. On August 9th, we also celebrated Women’s Day.*

*Esteemed Fortune 500 alumna and Managing Director of SA Women in Engineering, Ms. Hema Vallabh, reflects on the principles of service and the modern-day reality of Women in the Workplace and how her participation in the Fortune 500 program shaped her thinking. To read Hema’s more expanded version and her professional musings, see her blog at: <http://thepassionateprofessional.blogspot.com/>*

## Principles of Service: The Passionate Professional

### *The Power of Paying It Forward*

When people hear the phrase “paying it forward” they often think it needs to be in some huge, complex, magnificent way like starting a Non-Profit or a Movement that tackles massive, life-threatening issues around the world. If one has the capacity, resources and passion to do just that, then great. But “paying it forward” is no less valuable when it is done in

your immediate space, in an unstructured manner, integrated into your day-to-day activities by just yourself or a handful of partners. It simply means finding a way to help make a positive change in your own life, and the lives of those around you. Sometimes “paying it forward” is as simple as getting a conversation started.

### *The Power of Mentorship*

When you interview for a job, one of the first things the interviewer usually asks about is what experience do you have. In a world where competency is measured by experience, why would you limit yourself to only your own? By having a mentor, you’re able to leverage

# The Power Of ... The Passionate Professional

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Hema at the New York Stock Exchange

off their experiences, and learn from their successes and failures. Imagine the value that this adds to your competency measure!

Mentorship can take place in various forms - oftentimes it's through structured programs such as the exchange program I participated in. Other times, mentoring happens inadvertently or naturally. Be willing to learn from others to help you grow. As Beth Brookes says about learning from others, "I steal everything. I'm an amalgamation of everyone I meet."

And as valuable as it is to have a mentor or mentors in your own life, in line with paying it forward, it's equally important, and a tremendous learning and growth experience to mentor others. Being both a mentee and a mentor is one of the most invaluable gifts you can give yourself!

## **The Power of Networks**

With the high level of corruption and fraud taking place in South Africa, the term "It's about who you know" is very often seen in a very negative light, and rightfully so under these circumstances. But the Power of Networks looks at "It's about who you know" in a very different context. The networks that I'm talking about are built on credibility, reputation and trust. If

you are able to build this kind of network, you have just extended the boundaries of possibility, infinitely. It is also such networks that you can call on to help you find ways and means of paying it forward and possibly even doing so together.

## **Women in the Work Place: The Passionate Professional**

### **The Power of You**

We often spend so much time and energy trying to be who we think our boss, our partner, the world wants us to be, that we rarely ever stop to understand who we really are and what potential lies within us. There is nothing more powerful than being your authentic self, and once you embrace that, you have freed up all that energy to contribute to something more meaningful and constructive.

### **The Power of Choice**

With the hot topic for many career women being around "work-life balance", was interesting to hear what extremely successful individuals had to say. What came through was that it is actually more about "work-life choices."

The world has this perfectly painted picture of what a "balanced" life looks like. And the minute we deviate from it, everyone points fingers judgmentally and says, "Look, it's all about her career!", or "Shame, she gave up an amazing career and is now stuck as a housewife." But at the end of the day, it's not about pleasing the world. It's about making choices and being comfortable with them. Yes, with ambitions of a successful career, there will no doubt be challenges and sacrifices that need to be made. There should be no delusions around this, but giving these the due consideration that they deserve is an integral part of the "work-life choices" that one makes.

### **The Power of Discomfort**

This one was very clear and succinct: If you're comfortable in your job, then you're not growing!

Few things offer better growth than a new challenge. Yes, it is very easy to fall into a comfort zone; sometimes we do so without realizing it. That is where the importance of rotation programs, having a good manager, being on good development program and/or just being proactive has the most value.

### **The Power of Sharing Power**

Often in very male dominated environments, when women do succeed, they hold onto their success. Sometimes so tightly, that they make it even more difficult for their female counterparts to progress. Many of the leaders I encountered spoke about how "inclusive leadership" is a more progressive style of leadership and something that women are inherently better at. In the past, women often felt like they had to lead like men in order to succeed in a man's world,



Hema networking and developing friendships while on Fortune 500

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# The Power Of ... The Passionate Professional

>> *Continued from page 8*

and often that was what worked against them more than anything. They went on to share that most successful people will show that power is more likely to expand when shared. When you shine a light on someone else, it reflects positively on you too. Often, it enhances your

reputation as leader when you celebrate the successes of those around you.

Or quite simply put, Susan McPherson says "It's easier to be nice than to be mean."

***There is nothing more powerful than being your authentic self ...***

## Alumni Inspirations: Poetry

**On days like these**

*By Johannes Malebana*



*Johannes Malebana is a 2012-2013 Community College Initiative Program Alumnus. He studied Business Management at Whatcom Community College and is from Johannesburg, Gauteng.*

Three quarters we sat  
Elbow to elbow  
Ink to paper  
Paper to grade, we sat

Bellowing from the foot of  
the financial aid office to the  
corridors of our grand classes

Shouting from the edge  
of our finger-tips  
like this was the last day and the only  
moment we had to mend our broken  
wings and our broken dreams  
Today we stand  
in our caps and gowns  
we pat our backs  
pound our chests & bow to the  
warriors that reside within us

The warriors that single-handedly  
fought and won the war of  
educational knowledge  
and economic development  
for our developing countries  
without any ammunition or nuclear  
Just us  
our broken English and our pride

We took to the stage one  
scholar after another  
like the queen receiving her  
diamond jubilee; we received  
the torches that will ignite the  
ambers in our chests into fires

For us  
for me, if I may  
it felt like 1862  
when the 13th amendment was signed

Along with this credential,  
may a beam of butterflies migrate  
to our guts and the fireflies in our  
stomachs buzz hunger away

May each day feel like the  
end of a grey month  
when a blue-collar is queuing behind  
half of the country's population for  
what is meant to bring  
happiness and joy to a family of six,  
four blocks down boulevard

On days like these

May you be whom you  
were meant to be,

A bee hive that dribbles honey  
a memorial; monumental  
and motionless

May songs echo in tune with  
the beat of your heart

May you dance like the village Queen  
who gave birth to a baby boy

May you dance like dancing was  
the only way to restore peace

Like the streets were on fire  
and you and your boom box  
belonged to the streets  
and the only way to put out the fire  
was by doing the one two step

May you and the young boys and  
girls from your block time travel into  
young men and women and rejoice  
in unison like Sunday morning

May you have a heart of an orchestra  
to harmonize the inner-city stereotypes  
about dreamers and their dreams

Have feet that will take you places with  
both hands stretched out in front of you  
like you could feel the  
future with your palms

May the future be a safe  
neighbourhood to your mansion goals

***May you be whom you were meant to be***

# Alumna Interview: AWEP Alumna Kgaladi Sebone

*Ms. Kgaladi Sebone recently returned from her time in the U.S. Kgaladi is one of a handful of South African women who have participated in the IVLP, African Women's Entrepreneurship Program (AWEP). Welcome, Kgaladi, to our alumni community!*



*Ms. Kgaladi Sebone, 2013 IVLP AWEP alumna, receiving her certificate after completion of her program in the U.S.*

**Alumni Connex (AC):** Welcome home! Tell us about the program you participated in and when?

**Ms. Kgaladi Sebone (KS):** I participated in the International Visitor Leadership African Women's Entrepreneurship Program (AWEP) in 2013 and recently returned home. AWEP has a strong focus on business and leadership.

**AC:** It's encouraging to hear that women entrepreneurs are expanding their skill-set through AWEP. Tell us, what is your current position/role and what does your average day look like?

**KS:** I am the CEO of my company, Ikemele Egg Production, based in Polokwane, Limpopo. I am fully employed

by this company. I do all the managerial work, including finances, for Ikemele. My staff includes an Operations Manager, a driver, and three laborers.

**AC:** Could you expand a little bit on how your exchange experience impacted you personally and professionally?

**KS:** I learned so much! Professionally, I learned the importance of listening to my business, knowing my business objectives, time management, and best practices. I also gained knowledge regarding the exportation of products

to the U.S. and an understanding the rules governing agricultural produce. Personally, it was a life-changing experience for me! I had an opportunity to experience the American way of life. I now know how to develop a vision for my business and the power of a strong "elevator pitch". I also feel that my business should have a positive impact in society.

**AC:** It sounds like you thoroughly enjoyed your program. Kgaladi, what are your goals for the future and where do you see yourself five years from now?

**KS:** I would like to start a hatchery for indigenous chickens. My vision is to contract women in the village to rear more indigenous chickens. I am looking at

contracting 5 women starting in September 2014, and by 2019, I would like to be contracting at least 30-40 women. These women would supply Ikemele with eggs for its established market – the table egg market for retailers, and liquid eggs for bakeries. By 2019, I should be supplying 500, 000 eggs to customers if I stick to my plan. I am hoping that through hard work, my vision will become a reality.

**AC:** Thank you, Kgaladi, for taking the time to answer our questions and all the best for the future endeavors of Ikemele.

*Watch what all the 2013 AWEP participants had to say about their experiences at: <http://tinyurl.com/awepvideo>*

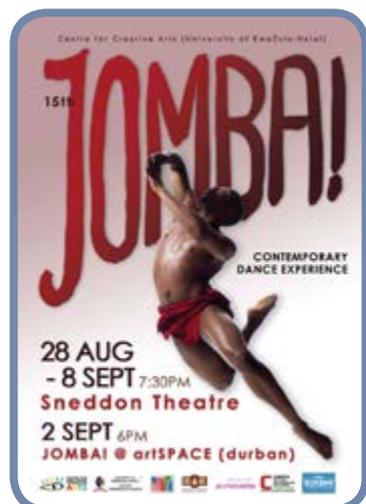
The African Women's Entrepreneurship Program, launched by the U.S. Department of State in July 2010, assist women entrepreneurs across sub-Saharan Africa. These small and medium business owners are transforming their societies through economic development and social advocacy in their communities.

*To learn more about AWEP, see: <http://www.state.gov/p/af/rt/awep/>*



## Upcoming Events

### Deeply Rooted Dance Theater Performs 7 and 8 September in Durban



The U.S. Consulate, Durban is proud to partner with the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Centre for Creative Arts and the Flatfoot Dance Company to host the Chicago-based Deeply Rooted Dance Theater (DRDT). DRDT is part of the U.S. Department of State's Arts Envoy Program with local support from the amazing eThekweni Municipality. Deeply Rooted Dance Theater (DRDT) is the first American group to perform at the annual JOMBA! Dance Festival in Durban.

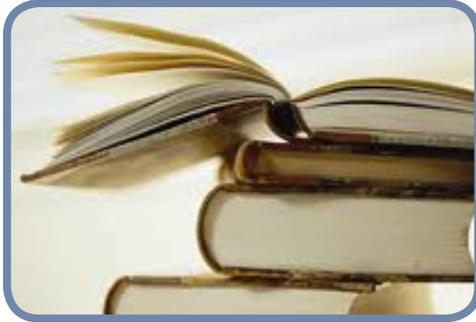
Deeply Rooted's invitation to JOMBA! will culminate in two stellar performances on the closing nights of the festival on 7 and 8 September at 7:30pm. In a style that oozes memory, and the jazz history of the African

American experience, Deeply Rooted, will present a choreography that threads together some of their key signature dance works. Their partnership with Flatfoot Dance Company for JOMBA! will also see the six resident dancers of Flatfoot joining Deeply Rooted in their performances after having spent two glorious weeks learning their repertoire and sharing styles and working methods. We hope international exchange alumni in KZN will be able to attend at least one of Deeply Rooted Dance Theater's two performances at JOMBA!

*For more information see: <http://tinyurl.com/jomba1>*

# Upcoming Events

## Open Book Festival, Cape Town, 7-11 September 2013 at Fugard Theatre



Open Book Cape Town is an annual literary festival, the first of which happened in 2011. Open Book 2013 will be occurring from 7–11 September in Cape Town. The hubs will be the Fugard Theatre and much-loved indie bookshop, The Book Lounge.

Numerous of our esteemed alumni will be participating in the Open Book Festival.

For a full list of participating authors, events, and programs, see: <http://openbookfestival.co.za/about/>

## Interested in Joining an “Ultimate Frisbee” club in South Africa?

Ultimate Frisbee enjoys immense popularity in the United States. Many of you, our exchange alumni, may have had an opportunity to engage in this invigorating, fun, and relaxing sport while on your exchange program. Not sure what ultimate Frisbee is? Watch this video: <http://tinyurl.com/frisbeevideo>

If you are interested in connecting with a local Ultimate Frisbee club, please contact Marlise on [rules@safda.org.za](mailto:rules@safda.org.za).

For more information on Ultimate Frisbee in South Africa see <http://www.safda.org.za/>



# Opportunities

## The Foundation for African Leadership in Business Launches Scholarship Opportunities for MBA Programs

The Foundation for African Leadership in Business (ALB Foundation) has partnered with top-tier MBA programs Thunderbird School of Global Management in Glendale, Arizona and the Vanderbilt Owen Graduate School of Management in Nashville, Tennessee to facilitate job creation and sustainable economic growth in Africa. Together, these founding partners of the ALB Foundation will identify and provide opportunities to Africa’s next generation of business leaders by providing full-tuition scholarships towards an MBA for selected candidates. Scholarships come with great responsibility, and as such, ALB scholarships are offered as part of the ALB Fellowship Program.

### Eligibility

- A commitment to returning to their country after program completion
- Strong professional background, including 3 or more years of work experience
- Strong academic background, including completion of a Bachelor degree or equivalent
- High competency in written and spoken English
- Acceptance to an MBA program
- Completion of the GMAT exam
- All other requirements for admission to the partner school program.

Eligibility for scholarships is merit and need based.

### How to Apply

All interested candidates should register with ALB as a first step in the application process.

For more information see: <http://albfoundation.org/about-mba-scholarships/>



Share your news, stories, projects and thoughts.  
Please e-mail us at [alumnisouthafrica@state.gov](mailto:alumnisouthafrica@state.gov)



### Introducing the Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders

#### AN UNPARALLELED OPPORTUNITY TO...

- Interact with President Obama at a Presidential Summit in Washington, D.C.;
- Participate in a 6-week leadership and mentoring program at a U.S. institution;
- Meet with U.S. government, civic, and business leaders;
- Access exceptional internship and apprenticeship opportunities;
- Expand your business or project through access to millions of dollars for small grant funding; and
- Join a continent-wide and global alumni network to help you seek innovative solutions to common challenges.

#### WHAT IS THE WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP?

The Washington Fellowship is the new flagship program of the President's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). This program will bring over 500 young leaders to the United States each year, beginning in 2014, for leadership training and mentoring, and will create unique opportunities in Africa to put those new skills to practical use in propelling economic growth and prosperity, and strengthening democratic institutions.

The Washington Fellowship will:

- Invest in a new generation of young African leaders who are shaping the continent's future.
- Respond to the strong demand by young African leaders for practical skills that can help them take their work to the next level in the fields of public service and business.
- Deepen partnerships and connections between the United States and Africa.
- Build a prestigious network of young African leaders who are at the forefront of change and innovation in their respective sectors.

#### WELCOMING PROMISING LEADERS TO THE UNITED STATES



Leaders will attend U.S. universities for training in one of three areas: public management and administration; business and entrepreneurship; and civic leadership. Training in each of these sectors will focus on the

skills young African leaders need to run better ministries, start and grow businesses, and serve their communities. The initiative will grow to 1000 young leaders each year. Washington Fellows will spend six weeks at top American universities and colleges that will provide tailored training in the sectors above, leveraging top faculty, cutting-edge curricula, and local opportunities to impart practical professional and leadership training.

Formal university training will be augmented by workshops, mentoring, and networking opportunities with leaders in each field, as well as internships across the United States. For example, U.S. agencies such as the Overseas Private Investment Corporation

and the Export-Import Bank will host Washington Fellows as interns to expose them to the U.S. workplace and practices, and build their technical skills. Washington Fellows will also benefit from partnerships with American companies like Boeing, which will provide leadership training at the Boeing Leadership Center in St. Louis to extend Fellows' campus-based training. The Fellows will also have the chance to interact with the President during an annual Summit in Washington, D.C., along with other senior U.S. government, business, and civic leaders.

#### INVESTING IN CRITICAL SECTORS

**Public Management:** tailored to young Africans who work or aspire to work in all levels of government, regional organizations such as the African Union, international bodies such as the United Nations, or other publicly-minded entities or think tanks.

**Business and Entrepreneurship:** designed for aspiring entrepreneurs who hope to take on leadership roles within the private sector or start their own business ventures on the continent.

**Civic Leadership:** oriented to young Africans who are civically engaged and serve the public through non-governmental organizations, and/or volunteer or community-based organizations.

**APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED STARTING LATE 2013**

#### CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS:

- Be a citizen of and reside in a sub-Saharan African country. Persons holding U.S. citizenship or permanent residency are ineligible.
- Speak and write proficiently in English.
- Be between 25-35 years of age at the time of application submission, although exceptional candidates younger than 25 will be considered.
- Have a proven record of leadership and accomplishment in public service, business or entrepreneurship, or civic engagement.
- Demonstrate a commitment to public or community service, volunteerism, or mentorship.
- Be committed to return to Africa and contribute their skills and talents to build and serve their communities.

**“Africa's future belongs to its young people... We need young Africans who are standing up and making things happen not only in their own countries but around the world”**

*- President Barack Obama*

For more information, visit  
<http://youngafricanleaders.state.gov>

# New Alumni on the Block

*In this segment of our newsletter, we extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our alumni community who have recently returned home. Please join us in welcoming the following excellent South Africans who have recently returned from their exchange program experience and are now counted as members of our esteemed alumni community! Alumni are introduced alphabetically by last name. We also use this segment to re-introduce existing alumni with whom we've recently reestablished contact. It is always a pleasure and privilege to re-establish such connections.*

## Recently returned

### **Nikiwe Bikitsha**

**2012-2013 Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Alumna, Senior News Anchor at eNCA**



Nikiwe was hosted by the Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism where she focused on leadership, online media, economic development and business journalism. Nikiwe highlighted the community development component of her Humphrey program as deeply significant. She volunteered at a food bank as well as with a local organization helping victims of child abuse. As part of her curriculum, she also participated in a Martin Luther King Day community clean-up.

### **Dr. Thulani Mhlongo**

**2013 International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) Alumnus, National Senior Director at National LGBTI Health Campaign in Soweto, Gauteng**  
[thulithulim@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thulithulim@yahoo.co.uk)



*Dr. Mhlongo, back row fourth from the right, with fellow HIV/AIDS Peer Counselors and Educators*

Dr. Mhlongo participated in an IVLP on Supporting Survivors of Gender Based Violence. He found the program to be very informative and an encouraging experience. Thulani is particularly appreciative of the experiential learning component of the program, which included national and local visits with relevant institutions.

### **Ashrus Ngobeni**

**2013 International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) Alumnus, Program Manager at Modisa Business Support Center in Johannesburg, Gauteng**  
[ashrus.ngobeni@gmail.com](mailto:ashrus.ngobeni@gmail.com)

In May, Ashrus participated in an IVLP on Small Business Development. He says that his exchange experience was an eye opener. Ashrus had to say after his return: "The way Americans are proud of their country as well as the prevailing spirit of volunteerism made me realize that it is possible for one to be in control of their own destiny through believing in oneself and behaving in a way that will make sure that people appreciate the country and state that one lives in. The prevalence of individualism in people's behavior instead of collectivism was a reality shock; however, this concept is what made America what it is today." Ashrus was particularly impressed with public private partnerships and thoroughly enjoyed all the museums in Washington D.C. His hobbies include sports and music.

### **Kgaladi Sebone**

**2013 IVLP: AWEPA Alumna, CEO at Ikemele Egg Production in Polokwane, Limpopo**  
[kgaladi@telkomsa.net](mailto:kgaladi@telkomsa.net)



Kgaladi participated in the IVLP African Women's Entrepreneurship Program and describes program participation as life changing. Kgaladi looks forward to growing her business and in her spare time enjoys gardening, reading, and sewing. She also has a passion for traveling. Read more about Kgaladi in our interview section.

### **Magteld Smith**

**2012-2013 Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Alumna, Medical-Social Researcher: Otorhinolaryngology, University of the Free State (UFS), Bloemfontein, Free State**  
[SmithM@ufs.ac.za](mailto:SmithM@ufs.ac.za)



Magteld describes her participation in the Humphrey Fellowship program as a transformational period. She was hosted by the University of Minnesota for the duration of her Fellowship and says of the Humphrey Program "not only did it allow me to forge professional relationships which will last a lifetime, but also enduring friendships around the world." Through her participation in the program, Magteld was able to establish professional relationships and networks with a range of non-profit organizations.

# New Alumni on the Block

>> *Continued from page 13*

## Recently reconnected

### *Delores Athiemulam*

*1995 Fulbright Alumna, Country Director, Operation Hope in Johannesburg South Africa  
delores.athiemulam@operationhope.org*

Delores pursued her graduate studies at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio where she focused on curriculum design and materials development for non-English speakers. Delores is particularly interested in non-profit leadership and management. She is fond of reading and enjoys watching movies with her 16-year old daughter.

### *Dr. Thidziambi Phendla*

*1996 Fulbright Alumna, Director, FRESH Consulting in Pretoria, Gauteng  
thidziambi22@gmail.com*

Dr. Phendla received her PhD from Michigan State University. She shares with us: "Fulbright gave me a lifetime opportunity which I cannot exchange for anything. Today, I command great respect in my personal and professional life as a result of the single and scarce opportunity provided to me. I will always feel indebted and be willing to serve others as my social responsibility, as I endeavor to plough back." Thidziambi's interests include research, motivational speaking, and social justice activism. Her hobbies include reading, music and watching TV.



## Alumni Connex Facebook Group



South African International Exchange Alumni have their own Facebook group – Alumni Connex! This group serves as a social media platform for alumni to share news, updates, insights, and opportunities with the South African alumni community. If you haven't yet joined our group; please do so and connect, inspire, and empower!  
To join the group: If you are registered on Facebook, go to [www.facebook.com/alumniconnex](http://www.facebook.com/alumniconnex) and add me as a friend. I will follow-up and invite you to join the group page too! Alternatively, do a quick search for "Alumni Connex". The group will pop up as the first match. Go to the page, select "Join Group" in the top right hand corner, and we will be sure to add you! Stay connected!

## International Exchange Alumni Website

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs  
**International Exchange Alumni**  
Inspire · Empower · Connect  
[alumni.state.gov](http://alumni.state.gov)



Please sign up for International Exchange Alumni online community. This is your space to connect with other alumni from all over the world, access grants and funding opportunities, as well as more than 20,000 free publications and online research resources. Here you can post updates, share your stories, and participate in a truly global community. Continue to build on the positive gains from your exchange experience and inspire, empower and connect!

**Sign up today at <http://alumni.state.gov/>**

