

in this issue



February is Black History Month



Cape Region Alumni Indaba Keynote Address



In Their Own Words



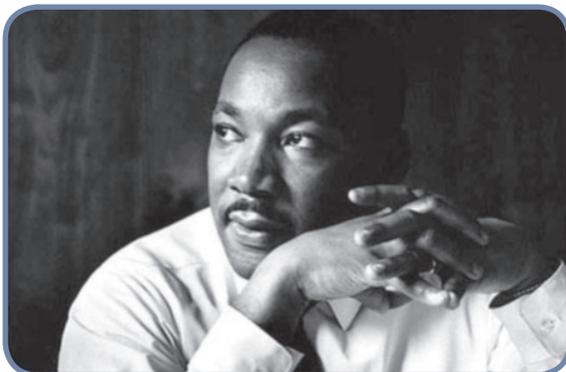
Opportunities

Alumni **connex**

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

■ issue 4 ■ february 2013

At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality *The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington*



Abraham Lincoln, and the 50-year anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington for jobs and freedom. It was at this celebrated march that Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his renowned 'I Have a Dream' speech. In keeping with the dreams and hopes of these two giants of history, President Barack Obama took his oath of office for his second presidential term upon the Bible used by President Lincoln during his inauguration, as well as the "traveling Bible" which Martin Luther King, Jr. used for inspiration, and in the preparation of speeches, during his travels throughout the United States in the 1960s.

The theme of this year's U.S. National Black History Month commemorates two important milestones in African American history: the sesquicentennial anniversary of the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation issued by President

Quotable Quotes: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

Excerpts from President Obama's Inaugural Address January 21st, 2013



"Each time we gather to inaugurate a President we bear witness to the enduring strength of our Constitution. We affirm the promise of our democracy. We recall that what binds this nation together is not the colors of our skin or the tenets of our faith or the origins of our names. What makes us exceptional -- what makes us American -- is our allegiance to an idea articulated in a declaration made more than two centuries ago:

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February is Black History Month

Excerpts from President Obama's Inaugural Address

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"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Today we continue a never-ending journey to bridge the meaning of those words with the realities of our time. For history tells us that while these truths may be self-evident, they've never been self-executing; that while freedom is a gift from God, it must be secured by His people here on Earth. The patriots

of 1776 did not fight to replace the tyranny of a king with the privileges of a few or the rule of a mob. They gave to us a republic, a government of, and by, and for the people, entrusting each generation to keep safe our founding creed...."

Similar Experiences, Similar Goals

Exchange Alums Find Common Ground at Cape Alumni Indaba

By **Amy Bell-Mulaudzi, U.S. Consulate General – Cape Town**

"We are U.S. exchange alumni and we can make a difference!" This was the prevailing mood at South Africa's second Alumni Indaba, held September 14-15, 2012 at the Vineyard Hotel below the slopes of Table Mountain in Cape Town.

More than 150 South African International Exchange Alumni from the Western, Eastern and Northern Cape Provinces enjoyed two days of productive networking, as well as some good old-fashioned reminiscing at this first ever alumni gathering in the Cape Region. The attendees -- who represent a range of professional interests and sectors from journalists to judges and parliamentarians to educators -- are all alumni of various U.S. Government-sponsored exchange initiatives, including the Fulbright Program, Hubert Humphrey Fellowship, International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), Sports United Fellowships, and veterans of the South African Exchange Program (SAEP), a former U.S. exchange program that brought more than 1,500 South Africans to study in the U.S. during the Apartheid era.

The event kicked-off with a high-energy "speed networking" ice-



Alumni *Andy Lamont, Dee Smythe, David Kramer and Komla Folly* speed network at the Cape Region's Alumni Indaba.



Alumni Indaba i-Reporter "Youth Leader" alumna *Vuyo Dubese* captures some of the Indaba action.

breaker that provided an opportunity for the attendees to reunite with old friends, as well as make new ones among the diverse and accomplished group. Over the next day and a half of activities, authors, musicians, journalists and judges engaged with academics, parliamentarians, sports coaches, educators, and civil society leaders, sharing ideas and identifying collaborative possibilities across their respective fields and professions.



IVLP alumni *Judy Silwana and Christine Francke* find common interests.

Prolific South African author Sindiwe Magona (IVLP 1978) and Human Rights Commission CEO Kayum Ahmed (Humphrey 2009) provided both humor and thoughtful reflection in their remarks at the Indaba gala dinner, while legendary musician David Kramer (IVLP 1989) had the crowd bursting out in

laughter with a selection of his classic musical numbers, including a few that were inspired by his U.S. exchange experience.

Also in attendance were a group of outstanding local secondary school students – alumni of the Department of State-sponsored Youth Leadership Program – who, armed with Bloggie videocams, served as roving i-Reporters, capturing all the Indaba action from an on-the-ground perspective.



IVLP alum *Judge Davis* emphasizes a point during the breakout session.

The event capped off with a thought-provoking closing address by Judge Dennis Davis (IVLP 1988) whose impassioned and moving remarks challenged this exceptional group to work together to improve the future of South Africa and its citizens.

The Cape Region Indaba followed the first such gathering of South African International Exchange Alumni held in Gauteng in June 2012. Watch this space for news about the next Indaba, planned for Durban in March 2013.



Watch



I Can Make a Difference
<http://y2u.be/JCeka9iMQ1c>



"I-Report" - U.S. Exchange Alumni Indaba Cape Town
http://y2u.be/ZJMFQ_fsDgk

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A Complexity of Complexion

Cape Region Alumni Indaba Keynote Address

By Kayum Ahmed, CEO South African Human Rights Commission (Humphrey Fellow 2009)



If you could choose to belong to any racial group, which one would you choose? Forget about the colour of your skin, your ethnic origin, or your mother tongue for a moment. Would you stick to the racial group that you have historically been assigned to, or would you change your race?

A few years ago I was awarded a fellowship to spend some time in the U.S. This was around the time of Barack Obama's first presidential election. I was asked to apply for a social security card at the local government office in Washington, DC where I was based. One of the questions on the social security application form asks what your race is. There were a few options including white, Asian, American Indian, black/African-American. I chose black. When it was time for me to meet the official who manages the social security card application process, who happened to be an African-American woman, she looked at the form and then looked up at me, and looked at the form again. When she looked up from the form the second time, she exclaimed: "I knew you were a brother!"

She was so excited at discovering that I was black that she called two of her fellow African-American colleagues over to guess which race I was. "Guess what he is?" she said to them. They had clearly played this game before, because there was no hesitation in their responses. Her colleagues were unable to guess what race I was, one suggesting that I may be Hispanic, while the other thought I was Indian.

"He's a brother!" she exclaimed when they guessed incorrectly. My African-American sister went on to inform me that most Arab or Middle Eastern social security card applicants (who look like me) ticked the white box. She could not understand this phenomenon, and neither could I. But when I arrive at any airport in the U.S., Homeland Security officials never have trouble guessing what I am. I am one of those Arab-looking "randomly selected" individuals whenever additional security searches need to be made.

In SA, I would have four choices if I applied for a government job using the Z83 form: African, white, Indian, or coloured. And in SA, I would tick the Indian box. Technically, I am first-generation South African. My father and his father were born in India and came to SA in the 1950s. My great-grandfather had, however, made his way over to SA in the early 1900s.



So what am I? Indian, black, African or South African? Or am I just confused? Can I choose my race or is it something that's imposed on me? What is the link between my race and my ethnicity?

When I thought about these questions, I wondered whether other South Africans had similar questions. It appears not. There are probably few of us who consciously struggle with questions of race and ethnicity. Many South Africans, I suspect, believe they know what they are.

Many, if not most, South Africans would probably fit quite comfortably into one of the four boxes provided on most forms. So is choosing and belonging to a race as complex an issue as I think it is, or are most of us fairly comfortable in choosing a race group and sticking to it without much thought or consideration? And then there is also the uncomfortable question: would we be willing to tick the race box that will give us a better chance of getting a job or a place at a university? And does that mean we will automatically tick the black or African box? What about a rental application form in a predominantly white suburb? What box would we tick then?

So what am I? Indian, black, African or South African? Or am I just confused?

During apartheid, there were several cases where individuals who were classified as coloured, Indian and black made applications through the 1950 Population and Registration Act to change their race.

Coloureds and Indians applied to become white, while black people applied to become coloured. My cursory research into these applications has not yet yielded cases where white individuals applied to be reclassified into any of the other racial groups. These cases provide some insight into the ridiculousness of the racial classification system under apartheid.

More recently, the courts found that Chinese South Africans should be classified as black largely to benefit from legislation promoting black economic empowerment. Race is of course intrinsically connected to socio-economic status and we cannot talk about race without talking about economics, power, politics and class.

At the SA Human Rights Commission, we deal with about 10 000 cases of

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A Complexity of Complexion

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human rights violations every year. Based on our latest statistics for the 2012/13 financial year, 16 percent of cases dealt with relate to alleged violations of the right to equality. Of those cases, most matters are race related. Equality-related matters remain the most common type of human rights violation dealt with by the commission. We are also noticing an increase in the use of social media as a platform for making racist statements and hate speech. Facebook and Twitter

are commonly used by young South Africans in particular to make hurtful and sometimes violent statements.

In most cases the commission has dealt with, statements are made by white people against black people. There have, however, been instances where black people make racist statements against white people. The commission tends to deal with these matters by trying to facilitate dialogue and discussion between parties, by bringing complainants and

perpetrators of human rights together, sitting them down and engaging with them. We have moved away from instituting sanctions or granting financial compensation to victims, and prefer perpetrators to apologize and participate in community service activities.

Returning to the original question: If you could choose to belong to any racial group, which would you choose? It appears the answer is more complex than I thought.

Exchange Alumni among those honoured during “16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence” Campaign

East London, South Africa, December 6, 2012

Every day we are confronted with stories that leave us in despair for individual women, families and communities. But today we are here for a positive and inspiring reason.

Marking the “16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence” campaign Masimanyane Women’s Support Centre, along with support from the U.S. Consulate in Cape Town, hosted a gala award ceremony in East London on December 6, 2012 to honour unsung heroes from communities across the Eastern Cape, including Peddie, Cathcart, Zwelitsha, Mthatha, and Keiskammahoek. Masimanyane Women’s Support Centre is a non-profit international women’s organization based in East London. With a specific focus on violence against women, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and the gendered nature of HIV and AIDS,

Masimanyane aims to build the capacity of women and human rights advocates to claim and realize women’s human rights. This is done through the development of new knowledge and the utilization of a rights-based approach. Masimanyane founder Dr. Lesley Ann Foster (IVLP 2002) notes, “In these communities, women are working tirelessly to provide critical services to their people, often at great sacrifice to themselves.”

Among the twenty women honoured were two International Exchange Alumni, Linda Brukwe and Judy Silwana, both of whom participated in an IVLP in 2008.

With a grant from the U.S. Mission’s Self-Help fund several years ago, and ongoing training and mentorship from Masimanyane, Linda Brukwe grew a small shelter for victims of domestic violence in the town of Cathcart into the Ikhwezi Women’s Support Centre, a well-established non-governmental organization with a wide impact over a large area. Today Ikhwezi offers a range of services, including a satellite women’s advocacy office in the Cathcart Police Station, a computer training centre, and outreach offices in outlying villages.

Judy Silwana, a self-described “rural village woman,” was recognized for her effectiveness in liaising with traditional leaders in supporting and advocating for health education, counseling, and reproductive rights among young women. She has established a network of women’s support centres in the Keiskammahoek

region that offer training in counseling victims of domestic violence, as well as HIV/AIDS home-based care.

The stories of these women who “take on challenges like warriors, fighting for social justice and equality without flinching....show us that we are a country of committed, spirited, honest, passionate, disciplined, courageous people of integrity,” said Dr. Foster, adding “Masimanyane Women’s Support Centre is proud to bring this good news to you and to have you inspired by them.”

Every day we are confronted with stories that leave us in despair for individual women, families and communities. But today we are here for a positive and inspiring reason.

While the rest of the globe may mark this occasion for only 16 days, the courageous women and men who work with Masimanyane dedicate 365 days a year to combating gender-based violence. We congratulate them for their exceptional



Dr. Foster (left) congratulates award recipients for their tireless work in promoting women’s rights, including Linda Brukwe, Founder of Ikhwezi Women’s Support Centre.

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work in addressing the complicated and challenging issues around gender-based violence.

Several individuals in the Masimanyane network are International Exchange Alumni, including founder Dr. Lesley Ann Foster. An internationally-respected champion for women's rights, Dr. Foster recently addressed the United Nations General Assembly on the global increase of violence against women. She attributes her commitment and success in developing women leaders from the grassroots level to the exposure she gained while participating in an International Visitor Leadership Program in 2002.



A number of U.S. exchange program alumni work with Masimanyane Women's Support Centre, including (left to right), Darby Gounden of Buffalo City Metro Municipality, Lundi Sivundla, Dr. Lesley Ann Foster, Micky Xanywa and Christopher Harper, all of Masimanyane, and Judy Silwana of Keiskammahoek.

In Their Own Words: Spotlight on the Hubert H. Humphrey Program



The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program brings accomplished mid-level professionals to the United States for a year of combined non-degree academic study and professional work. Fellows are selected based on potential for leadership and commitment to public service.

Confessions of a First Time Blogger

By Ms. Nikiwe Bikitsha (Humphrey Fellow 2012-2013)

Nikiwe Bikitsha is a senior news anchor at eNCA, and a 2012-2013 Hubert Humphrey Fellow at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Arizona State University. During her Fellowship, Nikiwe is learning about leadership, online media, economic development and business journalism.



One of the first things we were required to do as part of our Humphrey seminar was to blog. I'm a notorious and perennial technophobe. I thought, "Oh no, not another new online aspect to

learn." So much information was being thrown our way about social networks and branding and online presence that I balked and immediately crept back into my technophobe shell. That's despite the fact that one of the things I wanted to do with my sabbatical was to become more tech savvy. This wasn't motivated just by my interest in online media but also by a recognition that the more technically apt we are as Africans, the greater the benefits for our continent.

As far as social media is concerned, I had complied with Facebook, Twitter, about.me, pinterest etc, I just couldn't bear the thought of another element to master. One of the things which discouraged me is that when I tried to post a blog on our Humphrey page, I couldn't because for some reason the log in didn't match the password I had entered and my brain at that time threatened to burst at the thought of yet more passwords to remember. So I abandoned blogging until today, five months into my Humphrey year.

I suspect that digging in my heels is tantamount to the attitude of most traditional media players who were caught like deer in the headlights by the phenomenal growth of online media over the past decade and failed to respond in a way that didn't make them seem obsolete. The news outlets that have embraced the Internet age, social media and evolved with the times have come up as winners. Those that don't have lost out in terms of advertising revenue and in some instances have shut down.

As a news anchor, I'm not necessarily wedded to the notion that we will always be at the forefront of, or the main source of news. I know that the world is changing and as such more people now access their news online. I am one of them. However, TV news still plays an enormous role in being a major source of information. We see this particularly when it comes to breaking

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Confessions of a First Time Blogger

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news events for example, the Marikana massacre in South Africa and Hurricane Sandy in the U.S. At moments like these people will still turn to TV for rolling and visual news coverage.

This afternoon, I gave a talk about the important role played by news anchors in relaying information and the public's understanding of news events. We stand on the shoulders of giants, people like Walter Cronkite, who went out of their way to be well-informed and then unflappable in their delivery of seminal events to the public they served. There will always be a place for us.

One of the important things we miss out on as we transition from reporter to anchor are some of the technical

aspects of media. So much is done for us by the big teams that put us to air, we never really need to know how they put together their pretty animations, graphics or videos, we simply focus on the content and interviews.

Being relevant lies in embracing and engaging new technology. I've learnt so much in my time here. Instead of just being a consumer of online news and media, I'm learning to be a creator of it as well. Over the past few weeks, I've been learning "code" so I can create my own website. A few months ago, I would have given someone a blank stare if they'd asked me if I knew "code" or simply told them to stop watching too many spy movies. Now I'm actually doing it. When I was a young radio



Nikiwe and Brandon Vasinovic giving a talk at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Arizona State University.

reporter 15 years ago, we used tape recorders to record audio and then went back to studio to edit it; now that can be done instantaneously. The times, they are a-changing as the saying goes, and we must change with them.

– Nikiwe Bikitsha

Exploring Public Health Policy Management

By Dr. Magteld Smith (Humphrey Fellow 2012-2013)

I am sincerely grateful for an immensely rewarding opportunity that the International Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program (HHHFP) has proven to be. Though the HHHFP's selection process in South Africa was very challenging, it has turned out to be a one-of-a-kind experience in offering a dynamic and innovative program that brings mid-career professionals from around the globe to 18 top universities in the United States. Accepting the HHHFP was the most

important decision I have made thus far in my career, and I was supported by the University of the Free State.

Since arriving at the University of Minnesota I have had the unrivaled opportunity to develop my career, gaining experience and knowledge, enhancing professional networks in the field of disability services in general and more specifically deafness, publication opportunities, and growth in my understanding of American policy

and legislation as it pertains to my field. I have benefited in so many ways, attended classes, conferences, workshops, engaged in community projects, and have had experiences that were unexpected and riveting. All which wouldn't have been possible without the support of the International Fellowship program staff at the University of Minnesota and the services provided by the disability unit which have provided me with real time captioning and captioning of all digital materials for all the classes, conferences, workshops and community projects I have attended.

I will take away from the fellowship a much better understanding of how to approach disability issues in the future when it comes to solving problems and finding mutually accommodating solutions where they can be found. I will use the experiences and lessons from the fellowship to help shape policy in the different fields of disabilities. It is certain that I will continue to work on issues concerning U.S.-South African relations, and I know that I will serve the disability community, HHHFP at the University of Minnesota, the United States Mission in South Africa, the University of the Free State, and South Africa well for many years to come.

– Magteld Smith



Dr. Magteld Smith is a medical-social researcher at the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, at the University of the Free State (UFS). She is a 2012-2013 Hubert Humphrey Fellow. Dr. Smith's research focus is rehabilitation programs for persons with disabling hearing impairment. She is a doctoral candidate in development studies, and holds a master's degree in governance and political transformation as well as a master's degree in development studies, all from UFS. During her tenure as a Humphrey Fellow, Dr. Smith is focusing on public health policy management.

In Their Own Words: Spotlight on the Youth Leadership Program

The Youth Leadership Program (YLP) provides secondary school students - and the educators traveling with them as chaperones - with opportunities to participate in workshops, community service activities, team building exercises, home stays with host families, meetings with community leaders, and a wide range of leadership development activities in the United States. These exchanges are three weeks long. They are regional programs and the participants from South Africa interact with participants from Kenya and Nigeria. This year's YLP program will be held in March/April 2013. This year's focus will be "learning by doing."

This is the fourth year of the YLP program. We expect that 10 students and one educator will be able to take part in the 2013 exchange. It is hoped that travel to the U.S. is just the beginning of their program. Upon returning home, YLP alumni will have the opportunity to work together to implement community-based projects that showcase the skills they acquired during their exchange. They will also join the 41 other South Africans who have participated in this program since it began in 2009.

What Being a YLP Chaperone has Taught Me

By Elliot Mashinini (YLP Chaperone 2012)



Elliot Mashinini is the Head of Department: Social Science, Moletsane Secondary School, Soweto. Elliot served as a chaperone for Youth Leadership Program in 2012.

I felt humbled and honored when I was selected to serve as a Youth Leadership Program (YLP) chaperone by the U.S. Mission to South Africa. Participating in the YLP helped me learn about three important themes through hands-on activities, field trips, and workshops: 1) community service and civil society, 2) civic education and engaged citizenship, and 3) entrepreneurship and business leadership. In the process I have also gained skills in the areas of communication, planning and organization, leadership, and critical thinking.

As a history teacher, the YLP enhanced my knowledge and understanding of the world. It left me feeling like a global asset connected to a global community. YLP taught me that I don't need to change my current employment; but rather to excel where I am currently working. I can attest that since I received YLP training, I have become wiser, more involved, more compassionate, and am now a better teacher in the classroom.

Exposure to American schools taught me that students should learn by doing, and I have applied this technique, with only one student failing in my grade 12 class. One of my female students obtained 6 distinctions and I am trying to help her secure a scholarship.

Since returning from my YLP experience, I have started a food garden at my school. It is called Food Garden of Change. The garden is assisting students with curriculum work, and is also providing them with a means to support themselves. They eat and sell crops for survival. We have partnered with the Department of Agriculture and they have assisted us with tools, compost and seeds. We also have the U.S. Consulate in Johannesburg which has been a great resource and we are proud to be associated with them. Our garden is progressing well to the extent that the Office of the Premier of Gauteng visited it and highlighted it in the government newspaper.

The most important thing that I learned through the YLP was how to write proposals. I have become an important resource person in my community and many young people think that I am giving them skills that change their lives. YLP leaders and host families are highly knowledgeable and skilled, and I think that they have granted me a shortcut in life.

The last point I want to discuss is leadership. The YLP workshop on leadership changed my thinking. I know now that as future leaders we need to be principled, doing good even when no one is watching. For the first time,

I have come to realize that thinking is a discipline. That if you want to be better at it, you've got to work at it, and develop a thinking schedule. I have also learned that smart people collaborate with other smart people. Thinking with others yields higher returns and now I know why brainstorming sessions are so effective. Thinking assists a person in being strategic, and when you are strategic, you reduce your margin of errors as a leader.

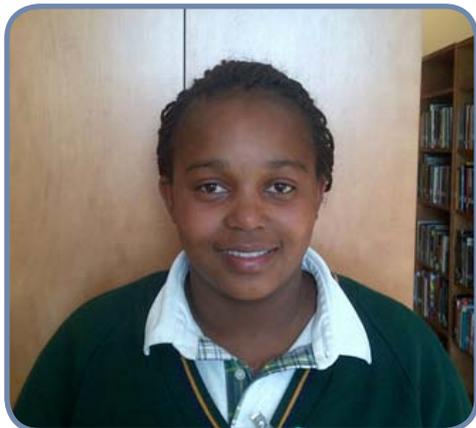
My next project that I will launch will be called The International Classroom of Future Leaders (ICOFL). I am busy registering it and planning programs to turn all students of this class into stars and equip them with skills that will assist them in sustaining themselves. In conclusion, I am now a social developer and social activism is increasing in my community. In the process I am developing and preparing future volunteers who will change and shape society in a new direction. From the bottom of my heart, I salute all men and women from the U.S. Mission, States' 4-H International, and Oregon State University, involved in this YLP, for spending sleepless nights developing others.



Elliot with his students in the Food Garden of Change

My Trip to America

By *Fortunate Tshirangwana (YLP Participant 2012)*



On the 1st of November 2011, I received an e-mail from the Student Sponsorship Programme (SSP), a South African non-profit trust, about a leadership exchange that the U.S. Mission, in conjunction with States 4-H International Exchange, was hosting. Many thoughts went through my mind as I decided whether or not I should apply. “What could I lose”, I thought and took the bull by the horns and applied. We were expected to write a one-page essay about ourselves and what it means to be a young leader in South Africa. Two weeks after the deadline I received a call from Karin Kitching from the U.S. Consulate General, inviting me for an interview. The interview was telephonic, and I really did not think I had made a good impression as it is very hard to sell yourself across the phone. To my surprise, on the 22nd of November, Karin called and told me that I had been selected for the YLP. It was a privilege to be chosen as one of the eight young leaders from South Africa. There were three students and a chaperone from Cape Town, two students from Pretoria, and three students and a chaperone from Johannesburg.

We left South Africa on the 8th of February 2012 and landed in Washington, DC where we immediately started with our orientation. The weather was an icy shock to our South African group because although we could see the sun, we could not feel the sun’s warm rays. The orientation took place at the States 4-H youth centre in Washington DC. We spent four days learning more about American culture, leadership skills, home-stay etiquette and learning more about what our trip entailed. The orientation wasn’t all work; we had loads of free time where we made use

of our bus cards. We went on the metro frequently and till this day I know exactly how many stops it takes from Chevy Chase to the Friendship Heights mall. We met a few American teenagers who showed us around DC and helped us understand what American teenagers are doing for their country. We braved the cold and went to see the White House and the National Mall where we saw many monuments.

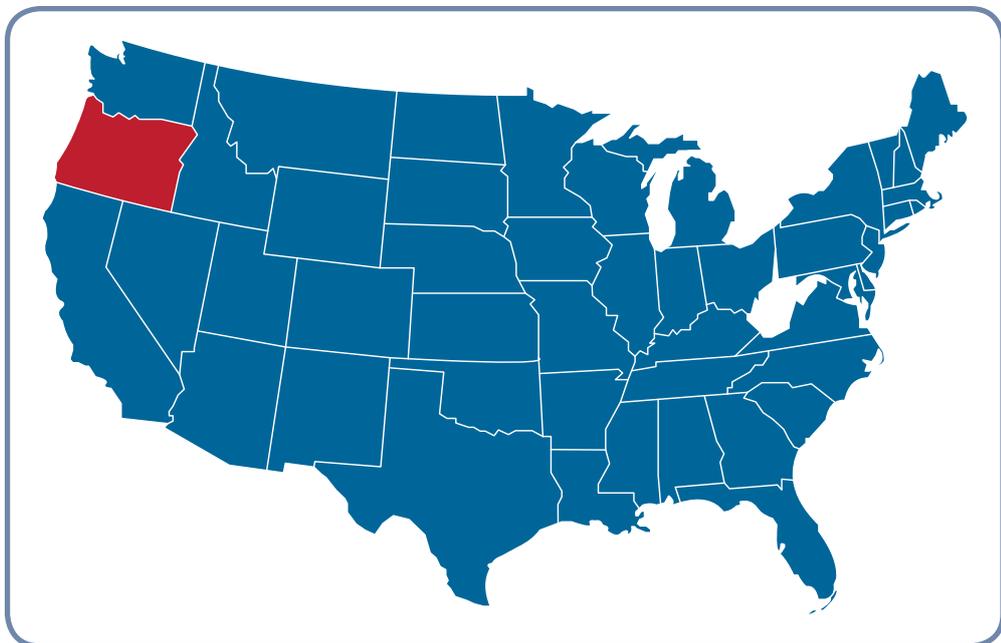
It was very scary and nerve-wracking having to live with a host family, but as we began to find out more about our different cultures it became one of the best experiences I have ever had.

On the 5th day we woke up very early and made our way to the airport where we parted ways with the Kenya group and made our way to Corvallis, Oregon. We were met by our host families and were quite nervous to part from the group and go our separate ways. Each member from the group had their own host family. It was very scary and nerve-wracking having to live with a host family, but as we began to find out more

about our different cultures it became one of the best experiences I have ever had. I had lots of fun with my host family; it was truly an insight into the life of an average American family. We went shopping, sledding, to gymnastic games, school concerts and many other exciting events. During our stay with our host families we had conferences at Oregon State University where we learned leadership skills, time management, youth and adult working relationships, and had many debates about what we would do for our follow-on projects. We also met many politicians and important people. We had lunch with the Chief Justice of Oregon State; we had a meeting with the Mayor, and breakfast with the Oregon Secretary of State. We were even privileged enough to sit in on State Senate meetings where bills were passed. We were also fortunate enough to sit be part of the jury of Oregon State’s teen court where we listened to a juvenile plead his case and we then gathered all the facts and decided on his sentence. We had a private tour of a newspaper press, and had the chance to interview the staff and find out what it takes to publish a newspaper every day.

We also had the opportunity to go to school with our host siblings. It was a very interesting experience as the school system is completely different and took some time getting used to. We also did

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My Trip to America

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South Falls in Silver Falls Park, Oregon

a whole lot of community service and learned about the power of working as one unit. We were also lucky to have an article written about us and the exchange that we were on. Towards the end of our time in Oregon, we had to create a newsletter about our time and give a presentation to the important people who had invested their time, money and effort into us. It was a challenging task but with lots of hard work, late night Starbucks runs and endless freezing of laptops, we put on a wonderful and professional presentation and published a top class newsletter. The afternoon we

had to leave was a sad and emotional afternoon as we said goodbye to our host families and facilitators. With many promises of a return, we boarded our plane and set off for Washington, DC where we were to have five days of debriefing.

We spent our last five days exploring Washington, DC, visiting the prestigious Air and Space Museum and experiencing much anticipated snow. We also had a chance to visit the South African Embassy and give them a presentation of what we had learned; we also did the

same at the Kenyan Embassy. On our last day we had a closing ceremony at the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs where we received our certificates and gave a presentation about our time.

Upon returning home I have started the process of refurbishing a library at my disadvantaged primary school. I have collected over 1,000 books and recently painted the library. I plan to open the library at the beginning of March 2013. This experience has encouraged me to try and study in America. I am currently busy with the process and have just written my SATs. I hope to be awarded a scholarship so that I can go study Industrial Engineering and come back and change the industrial engineering field in South Africa.

This leadership exchange was a really worthwhile experience. I learned a lot about crucial presentation, leadership, political skills and about building and shaping our communities for the better. After this experience I am fired up and ready to make a difference for the better for my country. I truly only started to understand what it means to be a young, post-apartheid leader after this experience.

Thank you to SSP, States 4-H, the American Embassy and the U.S. Department of State.

Show me Your Number

Confronting HIV/AIDS and TB during AFCON

By Mabalane Mfundisi

"A re dlale safe for zero new HIV and TB infections" is the rallying call for the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) in terms of the 2012-2016 National Strategic Plan. This theme was launched at the World AIDS Day on December 1st, 2012 in Potchefstroom by Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe and Minister of Health Dr. Aaron Motsoaledi. Through the concept paper that was adopted by the SANAC Plenary in October 2012, it was agreed that this theme must be implemented on World AIDS Day, during the 2013 African Cup of Nations (AFCON) tournament, and

beyond. SANAC mandated the Sport and Entertainment Sector, led by Show Me Your Number, to be the lead entity in the implementation of this theme.

Show Me Your Number (SMYN) is an innovative not-for-profit organization and a campaign using sport generally, and football specifically, to promote HIV prevention and behavior change. The campaign is linked to the SAFPU (South African Football Players Union) and numerous national HIV, AIDS, TB and STIs strategic plans and policies. Show Me Your Number provides life-skills



Mr. Mfundisi is the Executive Director of Show Me Your Number and Sector Leader of the South African National AIDS Council's Sport and Entertainment Sector. Mr. Mfundisi is an esteemed alumnus of a 2005 International Visitor Leadership Program.

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Show me Your Number

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training to South Africa's professional football players so that the players become positive agents for change in the fight against HIV and TB.



For more information, see www.showmeyournumber.co.za

The 2013 African Cup of Nations (AFCON) tournament occurred from 19 January to 10 February 2013 and fixtures were played in Johannesburg, Mbombela, Durban, Rustenburg, and Nelson Mandela Bay. Throughout the tournament, Show Me Your Number and the Sport and Entertainment Sector, with support from SANAC, drove home the message about HIV and TB prevention.

The activities undertaken in the five host cities were under the thematic areas of Communications, Advocacy, Social Mobilization and Health Service Provision. Show Me Your Number supported by UNAIDS and the SANAC

Secretariat, in collaboration with the National Department of Health and Provincial Departments of Health in North West, Kwa-Zulu Natal and Gauteng provinces, embarked on various activities to pursue the thematic areas of implementation outlined above. Generally, the following activities took place in Rustenburg, Durban, East London, Ermelo, Soweto and Alexandra: HIV counseling and treatment, advocacy, social mobilization by ambassadors, sport activities, condom distribution and the distribution of the theme song and performance of the theme song.

Over a three-week period, over 10,000 people were directly engaged; over 500,000 people were reached through the reading of the HIV pledge at the opening games of AFCON, and over



Alumni Mbalane Mfundisi (left) and Prudence Mabele (middle) share a laugh



90,000 people were reached through the broadcast of the SANAC, UNAIDS and Show Me Your Number public service announcement that was broadcast live during half-time at the AFCON Final. Furthermore, millions of people have been reached through the public service announcement via its broadcast by DSTv, Supersport and eTV during AFCON fixtures and other programming. In the five provinces of implementation, over five thousand people, including many men, undertook HIV counseling and testing, and just over a thousand men were recruited to undergo male medical circumcision.

Beyond the end of AFCON, the call will be amplified that men should be active participants and be part of the change that is needed to win the fight against HIV and TB – there is no more time for men to be passive by-standers whilst the world needs them to be part of the solutions.

Coordinator's Corner

Meet Jaclyn



Jaclyn Burger is our new Alumni and Academic Exchange Program Coordinator. She is based out of our U.S. Consulate General in Johannesburg. Jaclyn received her undergraduate

degree from Beloit College and her M.A. in International Peace and Conflict Resolution from American University. Her background includes United Nations peacekeeping missions, human rights instruction, and research consultancy. Jaclyn is passionate about transformative international education and is thrilled to be back in South Africa.

"The mind, once expanded to the dimensions of larger ideas, never returns to its original size."

– Oliver Wendell Holmes

Jaclyn says:

Many South Africans have had the privilege and pleasure of participating in U.S. Department of State programs.

Our alumni are a testament to the transformative effects of participation in such programs. I am honored to say that we boast alumni who hold top positions in government, the private sector, the corporate world, and throughout communities in our diverse and vibrant country. As the Alumni and Academic Exchange Program Coordinator, I look forward to collaborating with our outstanding alumni and further strengthening and developing national alumni programming in South Africa. Please feel free to connect with me at alumnisouthafrica@state.gov or via our Facebook Group "Alumni Connex".

– Jaclyn

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 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!

Department of State's Alumni Website re-launch!

Since 2001, The U.S. State Department has supported exchange alumni through resources available on the State Alumni online community. We are pleased to announce that State Alumni is re-launching as International Exchange Alumni. Look for the changes at the same website, <https://alumni.state.gov>!

The new website responds to alumni requests for a faster, more modern, interactive, and accessible website. It features enhancements of your favorite content including a \$33 billion grants database, job opportunities, an e-library of more than 20,000 publications, and alumni news and events. It also offers exciting new features including a project collaboration space as well as tools for you to more easily connect and engage with your peers. Additionally, the new site features pages that are viewable by the public so that we can work with you to share your achievements with a global audience.



Upon logging into the new site, you may be asked to reset your password. To do so, click the link to reset your password and then provide the email address you used to register for State Alumni. An email will immediately be sent to that email account providing you with a temporary link to login to the new

website. When you click that link, you will be asked to change your password permanently.

We invite you to visit <https://alumni.state.gov> today and check out your new online community! It's your space, so have fun with it!

Upcoming Event

Alumni Indaba Durban

Date: March 1-2, 2013

Venue: Umhlanga, KZN

The U.S. Consulate General in Durban will be the proud host of our 3rd Alumni Indaba. This event is for select Department of State exchange alumni who reside in the KwaZulu-Natal region.



Opportunities

South African Fulbright Student Program

Deadline for Applications: April 20, 2013

The Fulbright Student Program will be accepting applications for the 2014-15 U.S. academic year until April 20, 2013. This program provides South Africans the opportunity to pursue Master's or Ph.D. degrees at U.S. academic institutions. South African Ph.D. students can also use this program for a one-year non-degree program to conduct research and/or take courses at a U.S. academic institution. The program is open to South African residents and permanent

residents who have a Bachelor degree with Honours for the Master's program, or a Master's degree for the Doctoral program. The study grants are competitive and awarded for a period of two years. For more information, please visit our website at: <http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/postgraduate.html> or contact: Fulbright_Program_SAfrica@state.gov



TechWomen: Professional Mentorship and Exchange Program

Deadline for Applications: February 22, 2013

The TechWomen program will identify approximately 80 women who are emerging leaders and entrepreneurs working in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) from the Middle

East & Africa for a five-week program in the fall of 2013. It includes mentorships and professional exchanges at leading companies in Silicon Valley, California and concludes with workshops,

networking events and meetings in Washington, D.C. For more information and eligibility requirements please visit: <http://www.techwomen.org/how-to-apply/>

Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship

Applications for 2014-2015 will open in April 2013

The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program brings accomplished mid-level professionals to the United States for a year of combined non-degree academic study and professional work. Fellows are selected based on potential

for leadership and commitment to public service. For more information on eligible fields of study, general eligibility requirements and grant provisions as well as application information, be sure to check our website in April once

the application cycle opens up again. http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/humphrey_fellowships.html also see <https://www.humphreyfellowship.org/>

Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund - 2013



Do you have a great project in mind, but lack the funds to implement it? The Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF) competition may be for you! The AEIF supports innovative alumni-initiated projects, aiming to harness the leadership capacity of exchange program alumni worldwide. The competition challenges alumni to join together to create innovative projects that will make a difference in the world. It is expected that the 2013 AEIF will launch through the International Exchange Alumni website in late March 2013! Keep checking the website for updates and further information.

Share your news, stories, projects and thoughts with us. Please e-mail Jaclyn at alumnisouthafrica@state.gov