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# Alumni **connex**

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

Issue 8 March 2014

## AWEP-SA is Launched

By Ms. Ntombi Msimang



Ms. Msimang is a 2010 Alumna of the African Women's Entrepreneurship Program (AWEP) and Interim Chairperson of AWEP South Africa (AWEP-SA).

On February 11, 1990, Nelson Mandela walked out of prison after 27 years of incarceration.

The AWEP-SA launch, that had been scheduled for December 11, 2013, was

postponed due to the death of our beloved first President Nelson Mandela.

This link between the timing of the AWEP-SA launch with the life and times of President Mandela was made by Ms. Elizabeth Thabethe, Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, during her keynote address at the launch on AWEP-SA on February 11th, 2014.

### Preparations for the launch

The preparations to launch the South African chapter of AWEP started in June 2013 when AWEP alumni in South Africa invited a group of women entrepreneurs to share and buy into the need to support the formation of a South African chapter.

Working closely with Tom Leiby, our point of contact at the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria, and more recently Pete Giorgianni, we conveyed a very coherent message about AWEP.



Nelson and Winnie Mandela following his release from prison, photo credit: AFP

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# AWEP-SA is Launched

These preparations started with the identification of core members, the registration of AWEP-SA as a legal entity, as well as the setting up of offices and the registration of the website, [www.awepssa.co.za](http://www.awepssa.co.za). The identification of core partnerships with other entrepreneur networks in South Africa resulted in collaboration with the South African Women Entrepreneurs' Network (SAWEN) and Enablis by the time we launched.

## Ceremonies and practical discussions

Attending the launch, hosted by Smile Communications in Johannesburg, were more than 70 women entrepreneurs. The launch of the South African chapter was declared by hoisting the AWEP-SA flag. Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Ms Elizabeth Thabethe, and U.S. Consul General, Mr. Earl Miller, were the guests of honor. We received congratulatory messages from all over the world, including a congratulatory video message from U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Ms. Evan Ryan.



*Deputy Minister Thabethe and Ms. Ntombi Msimang*

After the formal launch, event participants engaged in a panel discussion to identify the programs and activities of AWEP-SA that will best serve South African women entrepreneurs in growing intra-African and U.S. trade.

## AWEP-SA 2014 calendar of events

AWEP-SA is in the process of preparing its five-year Strategic Plan which will inform activities for that period. During March 2014, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has offered to host a workshop with members of SAWEN, AWEP-SA, other entrepreneurs, and the Gender Unit of the DTI, to explore what support measures and systems are in place to ensure that women entrepreneurs are export-ready in order to access opportunities created by government for market access. This will determine the basis for AWEP-SA advocacy work for the next two years in lobbying for an enabling environment for export, especially for intra-African trade.

Later in the year, we plan to host an exhibition in Burundi, in partnership with AWEP Burundi, to showcase different products made by entrepreneurs in both countries, with a bias towards agribusiness. We are in discussion regarding a project that looks at the needs of the girl-child that we may implement as part of our social responsibility for the year.

The AWEP-SA office has been receiving very good feedback about the launch. Membership is growing and we are very upbeat about finally joining the AWEP family of launched chapters.

To learn more about the AWEP-SA Chapter and membership visit:

<http://www.awepssa.co.za/>

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/>



*U.S. Consul General Earl Miller next to Deputy Minister Thabethe and Ms. Ntombi Msimang.*



*2011 AWEP Alumna Nonku Ntshona (left), panelist discussion (center) and guests (right)*

# Celebrating Black History Month in February

**By Ms. Selaelo Ramoleta**

*Cultural Affairs Specialist, U.S. Consulate General Johannesburg*

Each year in February, the United States of America commemorates contributions by African-Americans to U.S. democracy and their history. Initiated by the historian Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History (ASALH), it started off as Negro History week in 1926 and was later expanded to a month in 1976. It is commonly known that Woodson selected February to encompass the birthdays of two U.S. presidents who played a prominent role

history lessons. In-house speakers from the U.S. Consulate General engaged learners on the beginnings of Hip-Hop and its influence in American Culture; the Integration of Little Rock High School; Finding One’s Roots: Race Culture and Identity; Fighting for Civil Rights in America: Important Milestones for Black, Asians and other Minorities; and, Black Firsts.

The U.S. Embassy brought Laura Lipson from Washington, D.C. to South Africa, to share her experiences of producing and directing an award winning film and one of the best Civil Rights documentaries in America. Laura’s film, entitled *Standing on my Sisters’ Shoulder*, examines the Civil Rights movement from the perspective of its grassroots leaders, Mississippi women, who were often its unsung heroes. Laura worked with different communities in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Pretoria on using family stories to make history; how to engage one’s



*Political Officer Brandon Jackson addressed learners on “Finding One’s Roots” during Black History Month*

in shaping black history, namely Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, whose birthdays are the 12th and the 14th, respectively. ASALH defines annual African-American History themes, with Civil Rights in America being the theme for 2014. [Click here](#) for the proclamation by President Obama.

Working in collaboration with schools and cultural institutions, the Public Affairs Section lined up a series of events to commemorate African-American History Month and to add a tangible element to the Civil Rights curriculum in Grade 12

subject to find stories, *Standing on Your Sisters’ Shoulders*, and how to change one’s life with mentors. In addition to working with filmmaking schools, storytellers and other organizations, Laura also appeared on radio and TV. [Click here](#) for film trailers.

Additional resources about African-American History month:

- [www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/](http://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/)
- [www.asalh.org/blackhistorymonthorigins.html](http://www.asalh.org/blackhistorymonthorigins.html)



*Film-maker Laura Lipson with 2011 IVLP alumna, Nonkululeko Britton-Masekela*



*Management Officer Jay Parker (right) addressed learners on Hip-Hop and its influence in American Culture and Integration of Little Rock High School. Here he is with Elliot Motsoaledi, a teacher at Moletsani High School in Soweto.*



*Consul General Earl Miller (right) with filmmaker Laura Lipson (left) and Assistant Public Affairs Officer Jared Yancey (center)*

# In their Own Words: Mediation in Limpopo Province

By Ms. Jane Ngobeni



Ms. Jane Tsakane Ngobeni is a magistrate in the Mankweng Magistrates' Court, Limpopo Province, South Africa, and she participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) in 2011, which focused on leadership and community development.

As part of my IVLP exchange, I visited San Francisco, California, and specifically the University of California, Hastings College of Law, which is home to the Centre for Negotiation and Dispute Resolution (CNDR).

**Participating students would come to the Magistrates' Court twice a week, after their coursework, to commence with mediation of Small Claims Court cases.**

The CNDR Legal Aid Clinic has a project whereby it collaborates with local courts to use students who study dispute resolution to mediate cases in Small Claims Courts.

I became particularly interested in this program, and for two weeks in June 2012, I returned to CNDR to study Envisioning, Designing and Implementing Court Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) programs from a practical and theoretical

perspective. When I came back from U.C. Hastings in 2012, I then intensified talks with the University of Limpopo to look at piloting a program with law students who study ADR to mediate cases in the Small Claims Court of Mankweng, which is a court in the vicinity of the University and also where I serve as a magistrate.

The University of Limpopo eventually agreed to such a program. The program started in August 2013 and ran until October 2013, which was when student



Student mediators from University of Limpopo

examinations began. Participating students would come to the Magistrates' Court twice a week, after their coursework, to commence with mediation of Small Claims Court cases.

The procedure was that the students would be briefed regarding the rules of mediation and what was expected from

**A smile on the face of litigants gave me that satisfaction which guaranteed that the matter had been resolved amicably...**

them as mediators. The cases which would be on the roll on that particular day for mediation will then be divided amongst the students to start with the mediation processes.

If the matter was settled, the file with the agreement enclosed would then be sent with the parties to the Commissioner of the Small Claims Court to be made an order of Court. If parties could not settle, the matter would still be referred to the Small Claims Court so that the case could be heard by the Commissioner.

For the period mentioned above, 137 students participated in this initiative. There were 77 cases placed on the roll for mediation, and 44 cases were successfully mediated.

A student mediator noted that "a smile on the face of litigants gave me that satisfaction which guaranteed that the matter had been resolved amicably with the preservation of costs and the relationships that exist between community members."



Magistrate Ngobeni with student mediators

# In their Own Words: Continuing the Fight against HIV/AIDS

By Mr. Mabalane Mfundisi



Mr. Mfundisi is the Executive Director: Show Me Your Number (SMYN) and Sector Leader: South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) Sport, Arts & Culture Sector. Mabalane participated in an IVLP focusing on NGO Management in 2004.

The journey was determined, the route was planned, and the cycling happened. Departing from Tshwane on Sunday, December 1, 2013 and arriving in Cape Town on December 7, 2013 was a tall order, but it was an enjoyable ride.

Like all people of the world, especially in South Africa, we too at Show Me Your Number were occupied by the passing of Nelson Mandela. With this preoccupation, we cycled 1,400kms over 7 days as our farewell to Madiba. The cycling, led by former professional football players Steve Sekano and Sibongile Khumalo, supported by Lerato Phetoane and Geoff Phetoe, included many smiles, laughter, tears, and a sense of purpose. At the end of it all, it was worth it, and we've decided that we will do it again annually. This is how we launched the Steve Sekano and Sibongile Khumalo HIV Prevention Cycle Expedition supported by the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC).

Nelson Mandela gave us strength through his words when he said "Let us give publicity to HIV and AIDS and not hide it, because the only way to make it appear like a normal illness like TB, like cancer, is

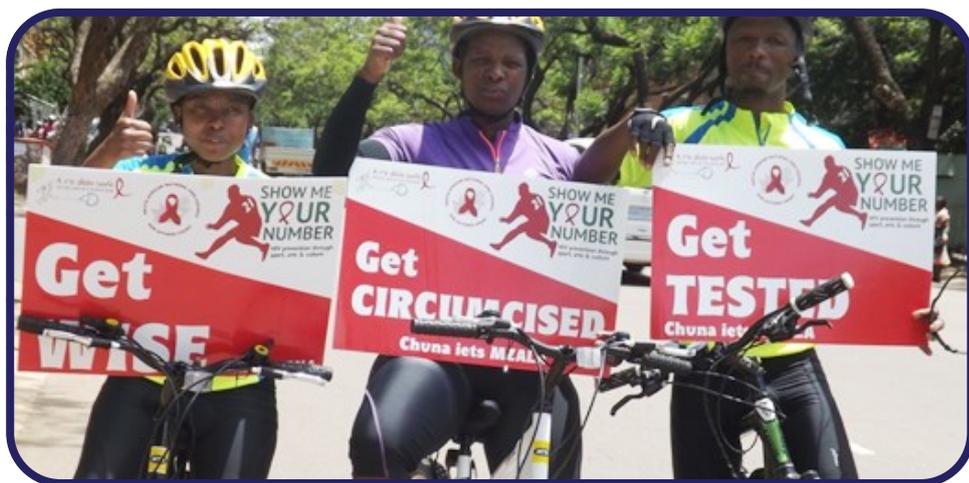
always to come out and say somebody has died because of HIV and AIDS, and people will stop regarding it as something extraordinary".

Mr. Steve Sekano is a former professional player for Orlando Pirates, Jomo Cosmos, Cape Town Spurs and Moroka Swallows. Ms. Sibongile Khumalo is a former female player for Soweto Ladies FC, Banyana Banyana, and she also went on to play overseas in Sweden during her prime. Both are ambassadors of Show Me Your Number. Lerato Phetoane is a former Basetsana player who went to study sport management in the United States of America before returning to join Show Me Your Number as our Operations Manager.

The Steve Sekano & Sibongile Khumalo HIV Prevention Cycle Expedition formed part of SANAC activities linked to World AIDS Day and the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA) that took place in Cape Town from December 7-11th, 2013.

traversed on our cycling expedition included Kroonstad, Bloemfontein, Colesberg, Beaufort West, Worcester and Paarl. The final leg of the journey ended at the Cape Town International Conference Centre on December 7th, just before the start of the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA). From December 8-10, 2013, we engaged in various HIV prevention activities in Mbekweni to engage members of the community. We used puppetry performances, soccer matches, dialogues, and workshops for HIV prevention. For the cycling team, every kilometer travelled meant living the legacy of Nelson Mandela who was a great campaigner in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

Through the support of SANAC, we have been able to take the National Strategic Plan on HIV, TB and STIs (NSP) to the doorsteps of the people who are far away from information hubs that are city centers. This journey is a milestone of engaging on an annual cycle expedition



The Show Me Your Number team getting ready to depart Tshwane

The team cycled from Pretoria to Cape Town and they made stop-overs in various towns along the N1 where they engaged community members about medical circumcision, promotion of no discrimination against people infected and affected by HIV, HIV testing and the distribution of condoms. The towns

that we, as Show Me Your Number, will use to engage with the South African public to drive home the National Strategic Plan. Going forward, we will continue the message of promoting HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT) campaigns and mobilizing South African men and

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# In their Own Words: Continuing the Fight Against HIV/AIDS

boys to take up medical male circumcision services.

“As we started with this cycle expedition on December 1, 2013, a revitalized HCT campaign and call for men to take up medical circumcision was launched in Piet Retief in Mpumalanga Province by SANAC Chairperson, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe, his Deputy MR. Steve Letsike representing civil society, and Minister of Health Dr. Aaron Motsoaledi. We carried this message t he

The Steve Sekano and Sibongile Khumalo HIV Prevention Cycle Expedition will take place annually as part of Show Me Your Number's legacy activities honoring the gallant act displayed by Thabang Lebese's family when they disclosed HIV as the cause of Thabang's death. The family's act went a long way towards dealing with the scourge of discrimination suffered by those who are HIV-infected. Thabang was an active member of Show Me Your Number. He played youth football for

**We will continue the message of promoting HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT) campaigns and mobilizing South African men and boys to take up medical male circumcision services.**

appearances in the Premier Soccer League during his 13-year career. At the end of the cycle expedition, we unveiled the giant Chillies mascot which we will use to create hype around our HIV prevention campaigns, especially our drive to distribute condoms during sport, arts & culture events. This giant mascot has been developed in honor of Thabang Lebese, who was affectionately called Chillies during the prime of his playing days.

To learn more about Show Me Your Number see:

<http://showmeyournumber.org.za/>



*The Show Me Your Number team hitting the road*

far-flung communities and we were inspired by the reception and enthusiasm shown. “We should do this often!” said the cyclists Steve Sekano and Sibongile Khumalo.

Orlando Wanderers and Orlando Hotspurs, and professionally for Kaizer Chiefs, Ria Stars, Orlando Pirates, Silver Stars, Moroka Swallows, Black Leopards and Dynamos. In total, he made 279



## Spotlight: EducationUSA Opportunity Program



The EducationUSA Opportunity Program, by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, assists

highly qualified students of very limited financial means with the cost of applying and getting to U.S. universities. It is not a scholarship program; students applying to the Opportunity Program expect to be eligible for scholarships and funding for tuition and living expenses from other sources. If granted, Opportunity funds cover application costs such as test and application fees, U.S. visa and SEVIS fees, and transportation to a U.S. university.

Our EducationUSA Advisers in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town have helped many deserving students access funding through this program. We are exceptionally proud of what these opportunity program alumni have gone on to do and achieve in the U.S. On page 7, we share some of their inspiring stories:

*Continued on page 7*

# Spotlight: EducationUSA Opportunity Program

## Gladys 'Gigi' Kisela – Harvard University

EducationUSA Cape Town



I still distinctly remember the delirious laughter my mom and I shared when we landed in Boston and this strange dream of what lay ahead of me became tangible. I think the laughter stemmed from a number of things: I actually applied, I actually got accepted (with an acceptance rate of 5.8 % for the class of 2017 it's still largely hilarious) and I actually got financial aid that made it possible for me attend. We felt immense joy beforehand as well when EducationUSA Cape Town Adviser Ms. Alice King informed me of what EducationUSA wanted to do to support my endeavor.

There are three other South Africans in my class and it's been a special thing to gather together when South Africa feels a bit too far away, especially around the time of Nelson Mandela's passing, and the bizarre feeling of isolation when it was not understood why we shed tears for a statesman. We "Saffas" banded together and understood, even as children who grew up in a progressing time.

It's been exceptionally fascinating to explore the experiences of Americans and International students alike and learn about amazing things: like what three weeks in Ethiopia was like, or how school works in the Czech Republic or what the

pressure of being the first generation to attend a college, let alone Harvard, feels like. In return, I was able to share my experiences as a Belgian-born, South African-raised black African brought up by Congolese parents.

Before we got to that though, most conversations sort of began with 'What's the U.K. like?' My response, inherently sassy (my favorite word they've got me saying!), was 'I don't know. I've never been.' The person would backtrack from their assumptions as ask me where I was from which led to a wonderful opportunity to gush about Cape Town in all its glory.

My strongest and most consistent emotion every step of the way has been pure, unadulterated gratitude. I constantly look back into myself and into my past and to my present and run of fingers and toes and limbs and hairs on my head to count the people who put hands on my shoulders and made me feel like I could do it.

I look forward to considering a major in Neurobiology with the hopes of attending Medical School in the future while investing time in my passion for photography (News Video Executive for the Harvard Crimson) and music (jazz saxophone and voice).



*Gladys braving the snow on campus*

Harvard University has the ability to make one feel fantastically invincible, and wickedly dumbfounded at how one ended up here. This paradox has been crucial to my development – I remain bright-eyed and bushy-tailed to all this amazing place has to offer, while scratching my chin while I compose a casual email to the VP of Viacom for a coffee meet-up or ask a Noble-winning professor out to lunch to talk about my homework.

My mantra through every day, whether it is to push through a tough day or to push myself on an easy day is simply this: upwards and onwards.

To document her experiences at Harvard, Gladys maintains a blog, feel free to read more of what she has to say at: [girlatharvardcollege.blogspot.com](http://girlatharvardcollege.blogspot.com)

# Spotlight: EducationUSA Opportunity Program

## Karabo Ropaya – Alabama State University

EducationUSA Johannesburg



*Delivering an address on Nelson Mandela at ASU*

Karabo is a transfer student and enrolled in a 4-year Bachelor of Science in Accounting program at Alabama State University (ASU). He worked closely with our EducationUSA Adviser in Johannesburg, and was alerted to the possibilities out there when ASU representatives came to the Consulate General in Johannesburg for a visit and information session. Here are some insights into Karabo:

### Transition to life in the USA

I miss my mom's home cooked meals! One thing that also fascinates me about the Americans is their respect for the military and the inclusivity they have in admitting everyone despite their field of



*Karabo proudly holding South Africa's flag*

study. Most of the Americans I have come across are patriotic and have inspired me to learn every line of the Star Spangled Banner.

### Studying at ASU

It's the best! Our instructors are highly qualified, well experienced, helpful and interactive. We also have an academic department administering a program referred to as The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). This program monitors every student's academic enhancement from the day they enroll until graduation. I am one of the students who can proudly say that I have experienced a difference in the way I read, write and express ideas (both written and spoken) as a result of this program. Alabama State University is indeed home away from home.

### Challenges

I found it challenging to try and understand the currency denomination and the worth of money here. It was also hard for me to comprehend what my instructors said at times during lectures as they speak fast. I sometimes felt like I was in the middle of a prank when I was seated in front during a lecture and couldn't even get a word of what was being said when everyone else nodded to show that they understood.

### Achievements

I've joined Model UN (United Nations Youth). I also delivered a talk on Nelson Mandela following his passing in December 2013.

### The Impact of the Opportunity Program

Without opportunity funds I wouldn't be in Montgomery now. It has made my access to U.S. higher education easy. U.S. education is expensive by nature but with opportunity funds in place, costs are more affordable. I would like to thank my EducationUSA Adviser, Ms. Claire Powell,

for exposing me to this opportunity and for making available various resources to help me prepared for TOEFL and SAT tests. I will soon be taking the GMAT test for graduate school and I know she'll surely help me prepare for it too. I hope that opportunity funds can be made available to other talented students who may want to access U.S. higher education. As the African saying goes "You educate a child, you educate a village." My empowerment through opportunity funds will turn out to be an empowerment of my community!



*Karabo with ASU Associate Provost and Vice President Ms. Cherise Peters*



*Karabo proudly wearing his EducationUSA lapel pin alongside Director of international Student Affairs Dr. Stephen Havron*



*Karabo alongside College of Business Administration Dean Dr. Le-Quita Booth*

# Spotlight: EducationUSA Opportunity Program

## Jireh Mabamba – University of Minnesota, Duluth Campus

EducationUSA Durban



Jireh is a freshman student at the University of Minnesota, Duluth Campus and hopes to major in Business Management and Pre-Law. He worked closely with our EducationUSA Adviser in Durban. Jireh is happy to be working hard and pursuing his educational dreams. Here are some of his reflections:

“I would like to thank EducationUSA and the Opportunity Program for opening doors and planting seeds of hope to the many disadvantaged students all over the world, like me. I hope to change the world the best way I can, by using a powerful tool, a good education. I would like all of you who are involved in making it possible for us to know that I am really grateful.

I have been in Minnesota for about four months and so much has taken place already. I enjoyed freshmen welcome week, which was filled with many, activities to help students adjust to college life; learning how to study, and how to manage money. Upon admission to the university, I was selected to be part of the honors program. Only 2% of the students are selected and I’m proud to be a member. Classes have been in session for a few months now. The classes are rigorous and I am learning a lot. The teachers are supportive and I absolutely

enjoy them. My hardest class is Math. I have been spending a lot of time with tutors and studying by myself to improve my skills. My favorite class is Intercultural Communications because it forces students to step out of their comfort zone and encourages student to integrate with student of different cultures and races. Recently I got elected as the president of the Rotaract Club in the University and became a member of the student government. I have a campus job which I love. I am the host in the restaurant. Finally, I am on the university rugby team. We recently qualified for the final four for national championship.

I am very fortunate to have a loving and carrying host family for my first year in college. I have two awesome host brothers. It feels as if I am still in South

Management and Pre- Law; my concern is that we need to develop young leaders who care not only for themselves but for all people. Leaders, who love their country and are willing to lead it, and have enough knowledge to manage the minerals and to better their country.

Once again, I would love to extend my thanks to EducationUSA and the Opportunity Program, for giving me the opportunity to better my life through higher education in the U.S. I appreciate the opportunity to be equipped with enough knowledge to be successful in life. I hope be able to give back to the organization so that one day, more students like me will be able to have the amazing opportunity that I am blessed to have. So, I thank you all for opening doors of hope and prosperity. Recently, Jireh



*Jireh getting ready to watch a sports game with friends*

Africa living with them. This is good because it prevents me from being pressured by the college vibes. It also helps me to focus on why I am in college. I plan to be educated and be equipped with knowledge that would help me to make a change in my life, family, community, and country. I am currently pursuing a degree in Business

was selected as speaker for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at UMD Duluth campus. He took the opportunity to pay homage to the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Nelson Mandela. To read more about his address, [click here](#). Alternatively, view the video of Jireh’s inspiring speech [here](#).

# Alumnus Interview:

## Fulbright alumnus Dr. Mageshen Naidoo



*It gives me great pleasure to share with you our inspiring featured alumnus that we interviewed for this edition, Dr. Mageshen Naidoo.*

**Alumni Connex (AC):** *Dr. Naidoo, could you please tell us about the program you participated in and when?*

**Dr. Mageshen Naidoo (MN):**

I participated in the Fulbright Foreign Student Program and was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study for Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Southern California (USC), Los Angeles. I majored in Performance (Studio/Jazz Guitar), with minors in jazz studies, music industry (music business & music technology) and jazz studies. My Fulbright scholarship was awarded for the period 2001-2002, however, I completed my doctoral studies in 2005. From 2003-2005, I was a teaching assistant at USC with a full scholarship while completing my studies.

**AC:** *Tell us, what is your current position/role and what does your average day look like?*

**MN:** I am Deputy Director in the Directorate: Music at the University of South Africa (Unisa). I wear many hats so my typical day is unpredictable. I am mainly responsible for

music examinations at Unisa. I am also responsible for the development of the music curriculum and maintaining the music examination system. I hold national training workshops for music teachers and students. In addition, I am editor of an academic music journal at Unisa. I am also Vice President of the South African Association for Jazz Education (SAJE) and, of course, I never miss an opportunity to play a jazz gig!

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

**MN:** The support from Fulbright was amazing in so many ways! While completing my doctoral studies, I was able to take extra courses and concurrently completed a second Master of Music degree in Studio/Jazz Guitar Performance. USC has one of the top music schools in the United States and is one of the few schools offering a Doctorate in guitar performance. I was very fortunate to have studied at USC. More importantly, I got to study guitar with my guitar hero, the legendary Joe Diorio and four other professors of guitar who are recognized as some of the best in the world as far as guitar performance goes. In addition, other courses

the greatest musicians and educators gravitated to USC, which was situated in downtown LA.

In addition to my musical experiences and training, I gained insightful cultural experiences through Fulbright that have left an indelible mark in my personal growth. The professional and personal relationships I forged in the U.S. have enriched me for a lifetime.

**AC:** *What are your goals for the future and where do you see yourself five years from now?*

**MN:** The professional training I received in the United States and support I received through Fulbright has given me the opportunity to make a valuable contribution to music education in South Africa on many levels. I returned from the U.S. to take up a position at the University of Kwazulu-Natal (UKZN). I headed the School of Music at UKZN and was the Director for the Centre for Jazz & Popular Music before joining Unisa in 2011. I have a passion for music development and jazz education in South Africa. I helped establish the first International Jazz School at Unisa in 2012, which saw approximately 200 hundred students of jazz from all parts of South Africa



*Mageshen jamming with world-famous Jazz guitarist Pat Metheny*

for my doctorate at USC were taught by some of the leading academics and practitioners in the fields of jazz studies, music industry, and music education. With Los Angeles being a major capital in the world of music, some of

converge at Unisa for a week-long winter school. In years to come, I wish to continue teaching and touching lives of young South Africans.

# Opportunities

## Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA)

**Deadline March 20<sup>th</sup>**

TEA is a wonderful professional development opportunity for secondary school teachers. The program consists of a six-week non-degree, non-credit customized academic program including seminars on new teaching methodologies, curriculum development, lesson planning, and instructional technology. Current secondary-level, full-time teachers with five or more years of

classroom experience in disciplines including: English or English as a Foreign Language (EFL), Math, Science, and Special Education are eligible. Application deadline is March 20<sup>th</sup>! For more information and application forms see our website at

[http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/ed\\_exchange\\_tea.html](http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/ed_exchange_tea.html)



*Our 2013 TEA program alumni*

## Fulbright Foreign Student Program

**Deadline April 20<sup>th</sup>**



The Fulbright Foreign Student Program will be accepting online applications for the 2015–2016 U.S. academic year until April 20, 2014. This program accepts applications from South African students who want to pursue a Master's or PhD degree in the U.S. Students enrolled in PhD programs at South African institutions, can also apply for one year of graduate study in the U.S., for non-

degree purposes. The program is open to South African citizens and permanent residents and the application deadline is April 20<sup>th</sup>. For more information, refer promising students to our website at <http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/postgraduate.html>

or contact

[Fulbright Program SAfrica@state.gov](mailto:Fulbright Program SAfrica@state.gov)

## 2014 Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund is coming!

**Deadline April 21<sup>st</sup>**



The fourth annual Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF) launches April 1st on the **International Exchange Alumni website!** Do you have a great project in mind, but lack the funds to implement it? The AEIF 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. From 1-23 April, alumni will have the opportunity to

formulate proposals, build teams and comment on project ideas from other teams on the website. All alumni who wish to compete in the 2014 AEIF must be verified members of the International Exchange Alumni website. Visit today at: <https://alumni.state.gov/>.

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

## /cine-ndaba



### about

/cine-ndaba is a creative documentary intervention dealing with gender-based violence in Cape Town, South Africa. Working with existing activist organizations, we will be collaborating with a group of women who have experienced sexual violence. Making use of a range of artistic-media, /cine-ndaba is process-oriented as much as it is product driven, where modes of story production are placed in the hands of women who have been directly impacted.

The project will consist of three facets:  
/developing skills in basic filmmaking and creative storytelling.  
//making creative documentary films.  
///creating a public art installation.

/cine-ndaba has received the Alumni Exchange Innovation Award from the US State Department. It is the first time that a South African team has received this honour.

**BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE IT HAPPEN**



**DONATE** to our crowd-funding campaign. While the grant that we received covers some basic costs of the project, we need to supplement it with public contributions to realise it's full potential. Please head over to our page: [www.thundafund.com/cinendaba](http://www.thundafund.com/cinendaba) to make a donation.



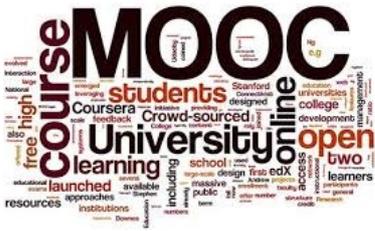
**SHARE** your knowledge time and skills. If you are interested in collaborating, volunteering or sharing anything that might be of value to the project and the community we will be working with. We would love to hear from you. email us at: [cinendaba@gmail.com](mailto:cinendaba@gmail.com)



**SPREAD** the word. Help us reach a wider audience and spread awareness about the issue. Find us next time you are online, pass our information on. Let's get everyone talking. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr and Google+  
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# Opportunities: MOOCs

## Upcoming Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)



A MOOC is an online course aimed at unlimited participation and open access via the web. In addition to traditional course materials such as videos, readings, and problem sets, MOOCs provide interactive user fora that help build a community for students, professors, and teaching assistants (TAs). MOOCs are a recent development in distance education. *Source: Wikipedia*

### Fundamentals of Global Energy Business [click here](#)

**Start Date: 17 March 2014**

Instructor: Professor Michael J. Orlando, University of Colorado

This course provides an introduction to the business of primary energy production. We will examine the nature of demand and supply in global energy markets, and business considerations for

participants in those markets. Students taking this course will be able to identify the distinctive challenges facing enterprises engaged in development of primary energy resources. The course is

intended to provide a broad perspective of the challenges for businesses and policy authorities engaged in diverse but integrated global energy markets.

### Applying Principles of Behavior in the K-12 Classroom [click here](#)

**Start Date: 7 April 2014**

Instructor: Andria T. Young, University of Houston

In this class you will learn how to conduct a functional behavior assessment (FBA) and apply principles of behavior in the public school classroom in order to promote positive classroom behavior and intervene effectively when faced with challenging behavior.

## New Alumni on the Block: Introducing our Alumni

*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!*



**Prof. Gert van der Westhuizen,  
2004 Fulbright alumnus, Professor  
of Education, University of  
Johannesburg**

[gertvdw@uj.ac.za](mailto:gertvdw@uj.ac.za)

Professor van der Westhuizen participated in the Fulbright Visiting Scholar program in 2004 and he was hosted by the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where he focused on Educational Psychology. "It was a very meaningful and informative visit to the U.S.A. Faculty from the Department of Education Policy and Management at UMASS Amherst were

very supportive and the visit enabled me to extend my knowledge on education reform and evaluation research." Professor van der Westhuizen is keen to pursue inquiries into questions of policy learning and the role of discourses and learning conversations. As he states, "I have an active interest in understanding learning conversations in social settings, and reading and talking about new ways in which conversations with circles of elders may help improve quality of education and family/school life. I love to explore how social media can improve how people interact."