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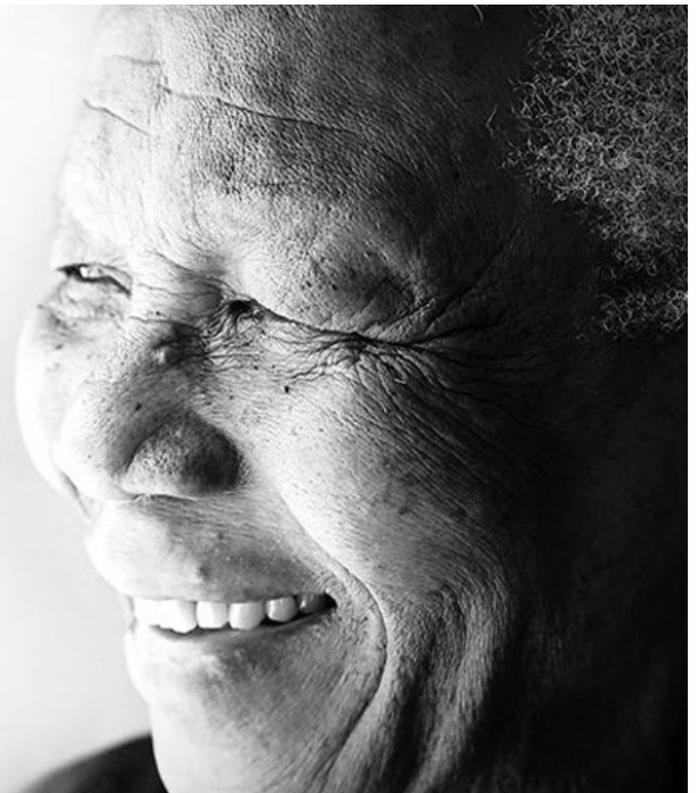
# Alumni **conneX**

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

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Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

1918 - 2013



# President Obama's Tribute to Nelson Mandela

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013, President Obama joined leaders from the United States and around the world at a national memorial service for former President Nelson Mandela.

In President Obama's remarks, he reflected on what Mandela meant to him personally, as well as to the people of South Africa and around the world, and urged all of us to remember Madiba's legacy and contributions to humanity.

"To Graça Machel and the Mandela family; to President Zuma and members of the government; to heads of states and government, past and present; distinguished guests -- it is a singular honor to be with you today, to celebrate a life like no other. To the people of South Africa -- people of every race and walk of life -- the world thanks you for sharing Nelson Mandela with us. His struggle was your struggle. His triumph was your triumph. Your dignity and your hope found expression in his life. And your freedom, your democracy is his cherished legacy.

It is hard to eulogize any man -- to capture in words not just the facts and the dates that make a life, but the essential truth of a person -- their private joys and sorrows; the quiet moments and unique qualities that illuminate someone's soul. How much harder to do so for a giant of history, who moved a nation toward justice, and in the process moved billions around the world.

Born during World War I, far from the corridors of power, a boy raised herding cattle and tutored by the elders of his Thembu tribe, Madiba would emerge as the last great liberator of the 20th century. Like Gandhi, he would lead a resistance movement -- a movement that at its start had little prospect for success. Like Dr. King, he would give potent voice to the claims of the oppressed and the moral necessity of racial justice. He would endure a brutal imprisonment that began in the time of Kennedy and Khrushchev, and reached the final days of the Cold War. Emerging



*President Obama addresses the crowd at the Mandela Memorial at FNB Stadium*

from prison, without the force of arms, he would -- like Abraham Lincoln -- hold his country together when it threatened to break apart. And like America's Founding Fathers, he would erect a constitutional order to preserve freedom for future generations -- a commitment to democracy and rule of law ratified not only by his election, but by his willingness to step down from power after only one term.

Given the sweep of his life, the scope of his accomplishments, the adoration that he so rightly earned, it's tempting I think to remember Nelson Mandela as an icon, smiling and serene, detached from the tawdry affairs of lesser men. But Madiba himself strongly resisted such a lifeless portrait. Instead, Madiba insisted on sharing with us his doubts and his fears; his miscalculations along with his victories. "I am not a saint," he said, "unless you think of a saint as a sinner who keeps on trying."

It was precisely because he could admit to imperfection -- because he could be so full of good humor, even mischief, despite the heavy burdens he carried -- that we loved him so. He was not a bust made of marble; he was a man of flesh and blood -- a son and a husband, a father and a friend. And that's why we learned so much from him, and that's why we can learn from him still. For

nothing he achieved was inevitable.

In the arc of his life, we see a man who earned his place in history through struggle and shrewdness, and persistence and faith. He tells us what is possible not just in the pages of history books, but in our own lives as well.

Mandela showed us the power of action; of taking risks on behalf of our ideals. Perhaps Madiba was right that he inherited, "a proud rebelliousness, a stubborn sense of fairness" from his father. And we know he shared with millions of black and colored South Africans the anger born of, "a thousand slights, a thousand indignities, a thousand unremembered moments...a desire to fight the system that imprisoned my people," he said.

But like other early giants of the ANC -- the Sisulus and Tambos -- Madiba disciplined his anger and channeled his desire to fight into organization, and platforms, and strategies for action, so men and women could stand up for their God-given dignity. Moreover, he accepted the consequences of his actions, knowing that standing up to powerful interests and injustice carries a price. "I have fought against white domination and I have fought against black domination.

# President Obama's Tribute to Nelson Mandela

I've cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

Mandela taught us the power of action, but he also taught us the power of ideas; the importance of reason and arguments; the need to study not only those who you agree with, but also those who you don't agree with. He understood that ideas cannot be contained by prison walls, or extinguished by a sniper's bullet. He turned his trial into an indictment of apartheid because of his eloquence and his passion, but also because of his training as an advocate. He used decades in prison to sharpen his arguments, but also to spread his thirst for knowledge to others in the movement. And he learned the language and the customs of his oppressor so that one day he might better convey to them how their own freedom depend upon his.

Mandela demonstrated that action and ideas are not enough. No matter how right, they must be chiseled into law and institutions. He was practical, testing his beliefs against the hard surface of circumstance and history. On core principles he was unyielding, which is why he could rebuff offers of

unconditional release, reminding the Apartheid regime that "prisoners cannot enter into contracts."

But as he showed in painstaking negotiations to transfer power and draft new laws, he was not afraid to compromise for the sake of a larger goal. And because he was not only a leader of a movement but a skillful politician, the Constitution that emerged was worthy of this multiracial democracy, true to his vision of laws that protect minority as well as majority rights, and the precious freedoms of every South African.

And finally, Mandela understood the ties that bind the human spirit. There is a word in South Africa -- Ubuntu -- a word that captures Mandela's greatest gift: his recognition that we are all bound together in ways that are invisible to the eye; that there is a oneness to humanity; that we achieve ourselves by sharing ourselves with others, and caring for those around us.

We can never know how much of this sense was innate in him, or how much was shaped in a dark and solitary cell. But we remember the gestures, large and small -- introducing his jailers as honored guests at his inauguration; taking a pitch in a Springbok uniform; turning his family's heartbreak into a call

to confront HIV/AIDS -- that revealed the depth of his empathy and his understanding. He not only embodied Ubuntu, he taught millions to find that truth within themselves.

It took a man like Madiba to free not just the prisoner, but the jailer as well -- to show that you must trust others so that they may trust you; to teach that reconciliation is not a matter of ignoring a cruel past, but a means of confronting it with inclusion and generosity and truth. He changed laws, but he also changed hearts.

For the people of South Africa, for those he inspired around the globe, Madiba's passing is rightly a time of mourning, and a time to celebrate a heroic life. But I believe it should also prompt in each of us a time for self-reflection. With honesty, regardless of our station or our circumstance, we must ask: How well have I applied his lessons in my own life? It's a question I ask myself, as a man and as a President.

We know that, like South Africa, the United States had to overcome centuries of racial subjugation. As was true here, it took sacrifice -- the sacrifice of countless people, known and unknown, to see the dawn of a new day. Michelle and I are beneficiaries of that struggle. But in America, and in South Africa, and in countries all around the globe, we cannot allow our progress to cloud the fact that our work is not yet done.

The struggles that follow the victory of formal equality or universal franchise may not be as filled with drama and moral clarity as those that came before, but they are no less important. For around the world today, we still see children suffering from hunger and disease. We still see run-down schools. We still see young people without prospects for the future. Around the world today, men and women are still imprisoned for their political beliefs, and are still persecuted for what they look like, and how they worship, and who they love.



*President Obama greets Ms. Graça Machel after his speech at the memorial service*

# President Obama's Tribute to Nelson Mandela

That is happening today.

And so we, too, must act on behalf of justice. We, too, must act on behalf of peace. There are too many people who happily embrace Madiba's legacy of racial reconciliation, but passionately resist even modest reforms that would challenge chronic poverty and growing inequality. There are too many leaders who claim solidarity with Madiba's struggle for freedom, but do not tolerate dissent from their own people. And there are too many of us on the sidelines, comfortable in complacency or cynicism when our voices must be heard.

The questions we face today -- how to promote equality and justice; how to uphold freedom and human rights; how to end conflict and sectarian war -- these things do not have easy answers. But there were no easy answers in front of that child born in World War I. Nelson

Mandela reminds us that it always seems impossible until it is done. South Africa shows that is true. South Africa shows we can change, that we can choose a world defined not by our differences, but by our common hopes. We can choose a world defined not by conflict, but by peace and justice and opportunity.

We will never see the likes of Nelson Mandela again. But let me say to the young people of Africa and the young people around the world -- you, too, can make his life's work your own. Over 30 years ago, while still a student, I learned of Nelson Mandela and the struggles taking place in this beautiful land, and it stirred something in me. It woke me up to my responsibilities to others and to myself, and it set me on an improbable journey that finds me here today. And while I will always fall short of Madiba's example, he makes me want to be a

better man. He speaks to what's best inside us.

After this great liberator is laid to rest, and when we have returned to our cities and villages and rejoined our daily routines, let us search for his strength. Let us search for his largeness of spirit somewhere inside of ourselves. And when the night grows dark, when injustice weighs heavy on our hearts, when our best-laid plans seem beyond our reach, let us think of Madiba and the words that brought him comfort within the four walls of his cell: "It matters not how strait the gate, how charged with punishments the scroll, I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul."

What a magnificent soul it was. We will miss him deeply. May God bless the memory of Nelson Mandela. May God bless the people of South Africa."

# Introducing Ambassador Patrick Gaspard

By Jaclyn Burger, Alumni Coordinator

Ambassador Patrick H. Gaspard and his family arrived in South Africa in late September 2013. On October 16, Ambassador Gaspard was received by President Jacob Zuma and officially credentialed as Ambassador of the United States to South Africa. Ambassador Gaspard

is joined by his wife, Raina Washington, and their two teenage children.

Ambassador Gaspard has had an illustrious career in politics and we are privileged to have him at the helm of the U.S. Diplomatic Mission to South Africa. Following his presentation of credentials, Ambassador

Gaspard said: "I am honored to represent the United States in our efforts to partner with the South African government as it strives to improve the economic conditions of its citizens and as it helps to lead efforts throughout the continent to increase security and prosperity for all." Previously, Ambassador Gaspard had visited South Africa shortly after the release of Nelson Mandela and noted that he immediately developed an abiding affection for our spirited people and culture.

I was granted the wonderful opportunity to sit down with Ambassador Gaspard for a quick interview a few weeks ago, and I feel privileged to be able to introduce him to our esteemed alumni community. I knew I was in the company of an extraordinary man when I asked him to say a few words for a sound-check. Instead of the usual "testing 1,2,3, testing" mantra, he said "Out of the night that covers me, black as the pit from pole to pole, I thank whatever gods may be, for my unconquerable soul." I was



Ambassador Gaspard and his spouse Raina Washington arrive for the credentialing ceremony

# Introducing Ambassador Patrick Gaspard



**Watch: Ambassador Patrick Gaspard introducing himself to South Africa:**  
<http://youtu.be/KUDLVAVw2JA>

captivated! Anyone who starts a conversation with the opening lines from the poem *Invictus* by William Ernest Henley is surely in the business of connecting, inspiring and empowering!

*Jaclyn: Good afternoon Ambassador Gaspard, please can you tell our South African alumni community a little bit about yourself and your family?*

**Ambassador Gaspard:** Good afternoon. This is a reintroduction to South Africa for me. I was last here a little over 20 years ago, after Nelson Mandela was released from prison but before the transformation, before the watershed election in 1994, and before he was president. It was a different South Africa. The pulse of the country is still the same, the same vibrancy; but clearly there is a more broadly shared democracy and prosperity now, and I'm terribly excited to return here at this point and make my own humble contribution to it. I have come with my wife Raina and our two kids. My 16-year old son, Indigo, and my 13-year old daughter, Cybele, are as excited as we are about being on the ground and learning all that they possibly can about this incredible country.

*Jaclyn: You have had an extraordinary career thus far. What accomplishment are you most proud of and why?*

**Ambassador Gaspard:** Gosh, the way you ask that question, you make me feel as if I'm an octogenarian! I have been incredibly fortunate in the places I've been able to walk, and the service I've been able to provide. Clearly, it was a great honor to work for the President of the United States;

first on his historic campaign in 2008, and of course, to serve with him in his White House as part of his senior staff was something that will be with me forever. I will say that the work that I and many others did to pass the health care bill in America is probably the professional accomplishment I hold dearest.

*Jaclyn: What is your vision for your time here in South Africa? What are the priorities for bilateral relations between the United States and South Africa at this time?*

**Ambassador Gaspard:** Well, I am blessed to be here at a time when South Africa really is leading the way for this region and for the rest of the continent. Clearly, there is an economy here that is diverse and helping to develop a sustainable middle class in this country is important. I think that the trade relationship between the United States and South Africa is a critical one, and I want to be a good shepherd of that relationship. There are over 600 American companies that are based here in South Africa and they help to provide tens of thousands of jobs on both sides of the Atlantic – so tending to that,

**“Alumni are a tremendous resource. We have so many South Africans who are in positions of responsibility, positions of leadership ...”**

making certain that we are lowering the barriers for trade is something of consequence.

We are in the midst of a historic and transformative transition with PEPFAR in this country, and as we move more and more towards country ownership of HIV/AIDS-related work in South Africa, I want to make certain that the legacy we draw on, and build upon is one that continues to be strong and moving forward, so that by the end of my tenure we're that much closer to an AIDS-free generation in this country.

It is no secret that there is a growing economic disparity around the world and it is an acute problem here in South Africa.

Working with our partners in the South African government to try to close those income disparities and to help – through trade and economic statecraft – resolve some of the problems that exist around unemployment, particularly for youth in this country, is of enormous importance. Of course, tied directly to that, are some of the outcomes we have in education. Much has happened in this country; there has been a tremendous flowering for young South Africans. But, there are far too many who don't have access to the tools and resources that they need to become full, and vibrant citizens and anything we can do in our bilateral relationship to contribute to better education outcomes in this country is an important pillar of our mission.

*Jaclyn: How do you envision alumni contributing towards that vision or the fulfillment of that vision?*

**Ambassador Gaspard:** Alumni are a tremendous resource. We have so many South Africans who are in positions of responsibility, positions of leadership, who have had occasion to go to the United States and to carry best practices from the U.S. back to South Africa for the greater benefit of their fellow citizens, their brothers and sisters in this country. This should be an ongoing process; it should not just be at one point in time. It is incumbent on us to do all that we can to continue to stay connected to our alumni, to use them as the important umbilical that they are between the United States and the people of South Africa. In addition to the things that they learn in the United States, they still have a tremendous amount to teach us and to inform us. So we need that, we need that connecting tissue. They are the best hope for a prosperous continent and we should not allow that resource to go unexploited.

*Jaclyn: You started by using a quote from Invictus for our sound-check. Can you talk to us a bit about a favorite book or a writer that particularly inspires you, or has influenced your thinking?*

**Ambassador Gaspard:** My favorite writer is Dostoyevsky. My favorite book by him is

# Introducing Ambassador Patrick Gaspard

*Brothers Karamazov.* I think that Dostoyevsky has always been of deep and passionate interest because his narratives invariably hang on the question of whether redemption is possible. If you're doing the work that we all do in foreign service, if you're doing the kinds of work that many of our allies are doing in government here, in NGOs that are working with orphans who have lost parents to HIV/AIDS etc., the question of redemption is one that you

*insights. I know this is not your first time in South Africa, but have you experienced any culture shock or do you have any particularly amusing anecdotes to share from your time here thus far?*

**Ambassador Gaspard:** No, no culture shock at all. As you said, it is not my first time here. But, it is exciting to experience the country again through the eyes of my teenagers. This is all brand new to them; two American kids

when with her own group, but can be a little shy and reserved when in a front of a formal gathering. So, she stands up to address me and she got really nervous and was at a loss for words. All of a sudden, everyone in the room stood up and started rocking back and forth and started chanting and singing, and the translator told me they were imbuing her with the spirit, the sense that she could do this, that she was a lioness, and that they had asked her to do it because of how strong she was. So for me, it, took away my sense of self-absorption and I was impressed with the support they were giving each other. And that was my welcome back to Africa moment. It was powerful.

*Jaclyn: One last question, Ambassador. What advice do you have for our young alumni who are aspiring to greatness in their professional and personal lives?*

**Ambassador Gaspard:** I would give them the same advice that I give to young professionals everywhere, which is to do all they can to get out of their comfort zone, to get out of their own skin, get out of their places of security, challenge themselves in radical ways because that's going to accrue to their benefit down the road. If you don't have the ability to shift your perspective from moment to moment, or see the world through a different filter, it's just going to put some real constraints on the caliber of your leadership. So, get out of your own comfort zone and go out and be disoriented in the kinds of things you take on, it will make you better, and stronger and just a more capable servant.

*Jaclyn: Thank you so much Ambassador for taking the time to answer a few questions and introduce yourself to our alumni community. Thank you, and welcome to South Africa!*



*Ambassador Gaspard and Alumni Coordinator, Jaclyn Burger, in the Information Resource Center at the U.S. Consulate General in Johannesburg*

should have a real appreciation for, and Dostoyevsky has always been a bit of a guiding light for me.

*Jaclyn: Do you have a particular personal philosophy you like to live by?*

**Ambassador Gaspard:** Well, I am fond of quotes as you saw in the beginning, and there is a quote by the ancient Greek lyric poet Pindar that I've always found to be useful. It's from the Pythian Chronicles and the quote is: "Oh my soul, do not aspire to immortal life, but exhaust the limits of the possible." That notion of taking from each day what is possible, what it brings to you, and wringing as much life out of every moment that you possibly can, has always been something that appeals to me, and speaks to who I want to be in the world.

You ask some probing questions here, this feels like an MRI of my soul!

*Jaclyn: We like to give our alumni a glimpse of the man behind the title, so thank you Ambassador Gaspard for sharing. Our alumni will appreciate these personal*

who have been pulled away from their Nintendo, their cable television, and all the things that they hold dear, and who are now experiencing a different part of the world. That's exciting.

Best anecdote I have – I think there is no greeting like a Zulu greeting. I was in Durban recently. They were having a Community Grants day, and I was asked to distribute awards. I came in, and expected to just talk to an assembly of about 100 to 120 people, make a bit of an address and be on my merry way. Of course I walk in, and the gathering just broke into song and chants, and it was absolutely overwhelming. What was wonderful about that encounter for me was what happened after. Here I am thinking, oh this is fantastic and just for me, this is glorious! And then I had this really humbling moment; the group selected two grantees to represent the entire room, to speak to me and to give me a sense of what their experiences are, and what they intend to do with the resources they are receiving from the U.S. Embassy. The woman who was chosen, is apparently very outspoken

Ambassador Gaspard's biography and public statements can be found on the U.S. Embassy website.



Follow Ambassador Gaspard on all of our social media sites at U.S. Embassy South Africa:



# Spotlight: Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI)

## YALI Alumni Gather in Johannesburg

President Obama's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) has been identifying promising young African leaders since 2010. YALI is a long-term effort to bolster emerging African leaders and create a self-sustaining U.S.-Africa relationship.

In September 2013, YALI alumni from over 25 countries from the 2010, 2011, and 2012 cohorts met in Dakar, Senegal and Johannesburg, South Africa for Alumni Reunion Seminars to network and explore opportunities for further collaboration. Next year will see the launch of YALI's flagship Washington Fellowship which will bring over 500 young leaders to the U.S. for leadership training and mentorship.

**Meridian International**, in close partnership with the U.S. Department of State hosted the Reunion Seminars and after two days of productive discussions, a reception was hosted by U.S. Consul General, Earl Miller.

YALI alumni stood firm in their commitment to taking leadership to new heights in their communities and countries.



YALI alumni gather at the U.S. Consulate General Johannesburg to network and collaborate



To learn more about YALI's upcoming Washington Fellowship, visit [youngafricanleaders.state.gov](http://youngafricanleaders.state.gov)

## YALI Alumni Take Leadership to the Townships

Zonke Mpotulo and Asanda Sigigaba, alumni from YALI's 2011 Young African Women Leaders Forum with First Lady Michelle Obama, have decided to take the concept of inspired leadership to township communities. Asanda and Zonke are both teachers at **LEAP Science and Math Schools** in Limpopo and Ga-Rankuwa respectively. They have decided to replicate the YALI program locally to help inspire young people who are agents of positive change in their townships. They've called their program the Young

Township Leaders Initiative. The aim of the Township Initiative is to identify and gather young leaders, 19-30-years old, who are currently involved in community development through business, and public management or civic leadership institutes. The program seeks to expose young township leaders to possible funding opportunities and encourage applications to the YALI 2014 Washington Fellowship. The program kicked off with two conferences in November 2013, which created a platform for young



Zonke with one of her LEAP students

Continued on page 8

## Spotlight: : Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI)

township leaders to start a conversation on how to collaborate to better their communities. It is hoped that such conferences will be replicated annually.

Zonke, originally from Langa township just outside of Cape Town, knows what it means to dream big, and achieve. To read more about Zonke see her [LEAP interview here](#), and her [YALI profile here](#).



*Young Township Leaders collaborate during a conference*

**“YALI alumni stood firm in their commitment to taking leadership to new heights in their communities and countries.”**

## Celebrating Fulbright South Africa!



On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 approximately 60 alumni of the Fulbright and Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program gathered together in Johannesburg to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fulbright Program in South Africa. American Fulbright recipients currently conducting research in South Africa also attended. Since 1953, the Fulbright Program has been sending talented South Africans to the U.S. to undertake graduate level work in a multitude of disciplines. In 1953, Mr.

Stefans Grové, the first South African Fulbright recipient, left for the U.S. to study towards a Master’s degree in Musicology at Harvard University. Mr. Grové went on to become a renowned composer. The Program has since continued to produce many South African change-makers, including numerous current and former Cabinet-level Ministers, leading academics and researchers in the sciences as well as humanities, business leaders, writers, artists, activists and thought-leaders.

The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary reception provided an opportunity for U.S. Embassy and Consulate staff to re-connect with our Fulbright alumni community and also provided a platform for Fulbright alumni



to inspire and connect with each other. Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Ms. Evan Ryan, passed on congratulations to all our Fulbright alumni via a video message from Washington D.C., while remarks were offered by Cultural Affairs Officer, E.J. Monster, from the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria.

Congratulations to all of our South African Fulbright alumni! We salute you!

For more information on our Fulbright Programs, [click here](#). For information on the Hubert H. Humphrey Program, [click here](#).



# In Their Own Words: Impactful South African Women

## Being a Modern-day Entrepreneur in South Africa

By Fumani Mtembi



Fumani Mtembi is the Managing Director at [Knowledge Pele Pty \(Ltd\)](#), a private research and development company based in Johannesburg. Fumani is a 2013 International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) alumna.

In 2009, I left the University of Sussex with the daunting desire to convert my Master's dissertation into a living institution for Africa's development. The primary concern of my dissertation was the role of epistemic justice in development. My question was, 'will the restoration of epistemic confidence (the ability to independently vet and produce our own knowledge) lead to a sustainable development pathway that reflects and affirms who we are as Africans?' This question continues to motivate me and explains my foray into entrepreneurship. As the alignment of stars would have it, I would soon meet four like-minded individuals with the desire to create an independent African institution with the ability to transform the production relations of power and knowledge. Four years later, we remain united in this vision as the founding partners of the Pele Energy Group, a company that holds Pele Green Energy, an independent power producer and Knowledge Pele, the Group's research and development consulting firm which I look after.

Therefore, my vision and journey as an entrepreneur with an explicit development mission is intertwined with my business partners'. The form of the institution we have created, a private profit-generating

enterprise, is a deliberate strategy to avoid dependence on external parties in the execution of our vision. We've also chosen to focus on two thematic areas to inform our core business: power and knowledge. Through this strategy, we intend to make the 'Dark Continent', bright, literally. The knowledge part of our business is about the development of solutions for and by Africans, on the basis of rigorous knowledge generation. This is who we are, therefore, this is who I am.

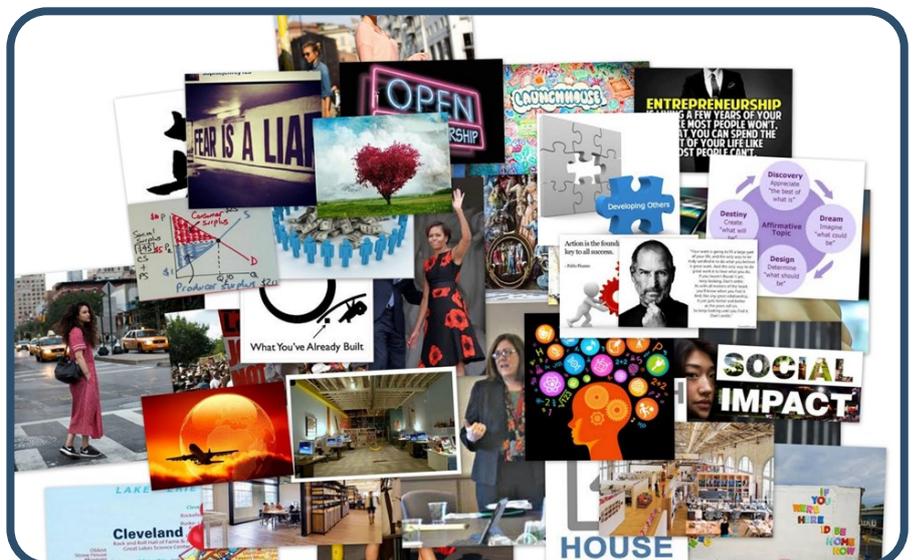
**"Champions, to an entrepreneur, are the people who buy into your idea when no one else will."**

The journey we've embarked upon is a long one and has challenged us beyond all worst-case scenarios we'd forecasted. Chief amongst these challenges has been the lesson of patience. It takes patience to build an enterprise that is credible – one that is consistently excellent. We've had to learn to be patient with ourselves and our own limitations as young business people. We've had to learn to be patient with the market, a hard-wired system that takes time to accept disruption. This wait has

only been made bearable by a combination of our delusions and our champions – people and organizations that chose to believe in us when our track record was thin.

Champions, to an entrepreneur, are the people who buy into your idea when no one else will. Champions are the people who connect us to other people that they deem useful to our mission. Champions are the people who empathize with your plight, who choose not to dismiss you for your inexperience; instead, they find ways to help you bridge your gaps.

My selection as a Change Maker in the field of Social Entrepreneurship has been amongst the more memorable acts of championship for our business. This IVLP program entailed travel to 5 states in the U.S. with an amazing group of 21 social entrepreneurs from as many countries around the world. This study tour was an opportunity to reflect, share and learn – a rare honor, which I thoroughly indulged in. To be an entrepreneur, an African entrepreneur, is to seek out a path that fosters both development and independence. It's a trying path and the light at the end is that much more visible on those occasions when we're hoisted onto the shoulders of our champions.

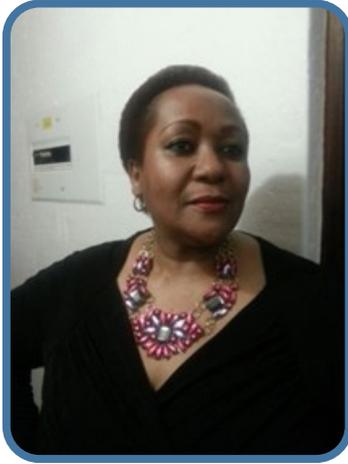


A collage capturing some of the more memorable moments of Fumani's IVLP experience

# In Their Own Words: Impactful South African Women

## Confronting Challenges in North West Province

By Cynthia Chishimba



*Cynthia Chishimba currently serves as Provincial Coordinator: North West Province for the South African Non-Governmental Organization Coalition (SANGOCO) and is a 2008 IVLP alumna.*

I feel humbled to have been invited to contribute an article and reflect on my exchange experience for the December issue of *Alumni Connex*.

I have benefited immensely from my participation in a phenomenal exchange program. I feel privileged as a South African to have been nominated to participate in the prestigious International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). At first when I read about the program, I could not understand how I would fit into a program that has hosted world-class leaders and other prestigious professionals from different disciplines, especially since I come from a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) background. I'm glad I did not get discouraged and actually saw this as both a challenge and an opportunity that would take me to new heights.

The IVLP is a very intense program that needs focus and commitment. Our program was NGO-specific and focused on strengthening our skills in NGO Management, Leadership, and Governance. I felt privileged that I had an opportunity to visit several cities and

states including; Washington D.C., Jackson, Mississippi; Cleveland, Ohio; Santa Fe, New Mexico; and Portland, Oregon. Each place was unique in terms of its approach towards social and economic development as well as its laws and democratic processes. I came across NGOs that are doing phenomenal work within their communities. These organisations partner with government, the private sector, and local universities in the delivery of some of their programs. I felt honored to have been associated with so much greatness.

The program afforded me an opportunity to interact with various NGOs ranging from grassroots organizations to those that operated at the highest level; garnering income via the leasing of property they owned to sustain their organizations. What also captured my attention during my time in the U.S. was the level of support and commitment NGOs receive from government through partnerships; thus creating an enabling environment for the implementation and funding of their programs. Numerous programs that I came across in the U.S. were greatly inspiring to me: HIV/AIDS-support clinics, partnerships with local churches, university outreach programs

**“I felt honored to have been associated with so much greatness.”**

for women's empowerment, and re-integration of prisoners into communities.

With all the exposure and the experience attained from this program, I established my own social enterprise (Moropa Development Services) which aims at empowering women, youth, girls, boys and teenagers.

I'm currently involved with two programs funded by the Transnet Foundation: Girl Pride and Train of Hope. The Girl Pride program's strategic objective is to keep girls from rural areas in schools through intervention in sexual reproductive health education, health and hygiene, teenage pregnancy, building up self-esteem and the provision of "Dignity Packs" which include feminine hygiene products, a school bag, journal/ diary, pencil case, a bar of soap, a toothbrush and toothpaste, antiperspirant roll-on, and hand sanitizer. The program has reached out to 3,500 girls in the rural areas.



*Girl Pride Project beneficiaries*

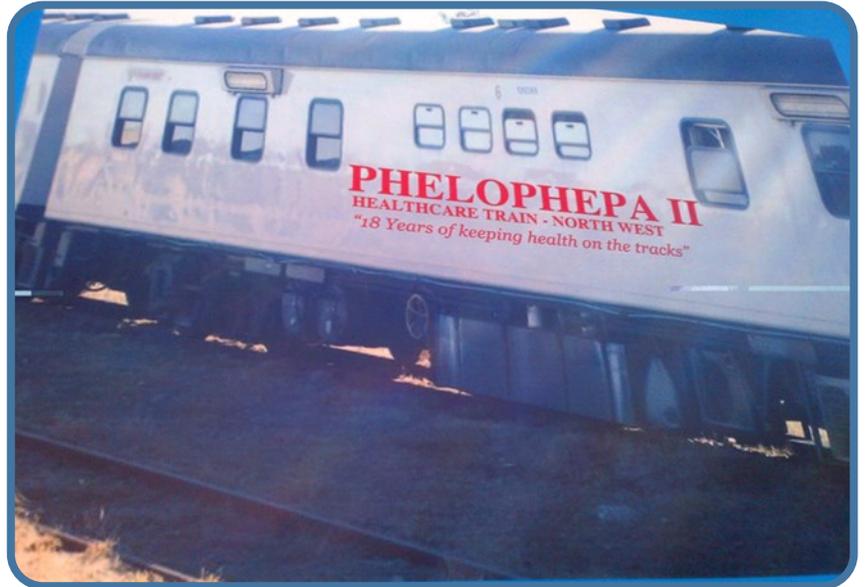
*Continued on page 11*

# In Their Own Words: Impactful South African Women

The Phelophepa Health Care Train, or the Train of Hope as referred to by local communities, provides primary health care services to rural areas. In addition to primary health care services, the train creates temporary employment, provides training to local NGOs, and contributes towards local economic empowerment by utilising local service providers. The train reaches more than 70,000 patients during its visit to rural areas and the statistics differ from year to year.

For more information about my programs I can be contacted on

[cynthia@sangoconw.org.za](mailto:cynthia@sangoconw.org.za).



*Train of Hope – North West Province*

## South Africa's First Global Mentoring Walk

By Hema Vallabh



Hema Vallabh is Managing Director of The Passionate Profession Leadership Development Consultancy, and Managing Director of South African Women in Engineering (SAWomEng). She is a 2013 alumna of the FORTUNE/U.S. State Department Global Women's Mentoring Partnership.

On November 16, 2013 in Johannesburg women joined together at the Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Vital Voices Global Mentoring Walk. Established women leaders were matched with young professionals to serve as mentors, offering career advice, support, and guidance. As they walked through the gardens, they demonstrated the power of women coming together to shape the future of their communities.

Each year, dedicated members of the **Vital Voices Global Leadership Network** invest in the next generation of women leaders by organizing local mentoring walks. The Vital Voices' Global Mentoring Walk underscores the value of women's leadership and exemplifies the transformative impact women have when they join together to promote positive change throughout the world. Each walk is tailored to fit the particular needs of each locale but builds on the success of mentoring walks hosted the past four years across Eurasia, Latin America, North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa.

**“The Global Mentoring Walk is an opportunity to highlight the importance of women's leadership, and to accelerate the impact of women leaders through mentoring.”**

It was South Africa's **first** year participating in the Mentoring Walk. Organized by Hema Vallabh, [Managing Director of The Passionate Profession Leadership Development Consultancy and

*Continued on page 12*



*2013 Global Mentoring Walk participants*

# In Their Own Words: Impactful South African Women

Managing Director of NPO South African Women in Engineering (SAWomEng)] and Tshepo Shabangu [the immediate past president of South African institute of Intellectual Property Law], both alumni of FORTUNE/U.S. State Department Global Women’s Mentoring Partnership, over a hundred women leaders came together to participate in this special mentoring relationship. Remarks were made by featured key note speaker, Tryphosa Ramano, CFO of PPC Cement, about her personal journey as a leader and the importance of mentorship. The event was a resounding success and we look to grow this initiative even further in coming years.

“The Global Mentoring Walk is an opportunity to highlight the importance of women’s leadership, and to accelerate the impact of women leaders through mentoring,” said Alyse Nelson, President and CEO of Vital Voices Global Partnership. Vital Voices recognizes that mentoring is critical to empower women to succeed and for advancing women’s leadership for the future.

Mentoring enables established women leaders to inspire, encourage and help others tackle the challenges in their professional and personal growth. Women who have gone before and succeeded are in a unique position to guide and facilitate others to successfully navigate through similar obstacles in their career paths.



2012 Fortune/U.S. State Department Global Women’s Mentoring Partnership alumna, Matshepo Moloko Msibi (middle) with her mentees

The concept for this Global Mentoring Walk derived from American media icon, founder and former CEO of Oxygen Media, Geraldine Laybourne, who launched mentoring walks to empower young women professionals in New York City and across the United States. Attributing much of her own success in the American entertainment industry to mentoring, Ms. Laybourne stated: “Why is it that so many of us did well? Because we had a mentoring outlook. We helped each other along.”

The Global Mentoring Walk was conceived as a way to continue the impact of the FORTUNE/U.S. State Department Global

Women’s Mentoring Partnership. Through this program, Vital Voices brings international businesswomen to the United States for leadership and skills training, networking, and a three-week mentorship with some of FORTUNE’s Most Powerful Women, executives of highly successful companies. Alumnae of this program are among the top women leaders in Vital Voices’ Global Leadership Network, and often pay it forward by hosting Mentoring Walks.



[www.facebook.com/mentoringwalksa](http://www.facebook.com/mentoringwalksa)



@MWalkSA



Mentors share a laugh at the 2013 inaugural South Africa Vital Voices Mentoring Walk.

**“... mentoring is critical to empower women to succeed and for advancing women’s leadership for the future.”**

## Prof. Maguvhe Appointed as Deputy Chairperson of the SABC Board



Prof. Mbulaheni Obert Maguvhe, a 1997 Fulbright alumnus, was appointed as Deputy Chairperson of the SABC Board by President Jacob Zuma in October. Prof. Maguvhe is an associate professor at UNISA's Department of Inclusive Education.

He holds a PhD and master's degree in education studies for the visually impaired. He is a co-founder

of the South African National Association of the Blind and Partially-Sighted and has worked extensively at the South African National Council for the Blind. Congratulations to Prof. Maguvhe on this great achievement!

See a complete list of [SABC Board Members here](#).

## Ms. Kgoroadira awarded best female subsistence farmer in South Africa

For the past 13 years, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has been recognizing excellent female entrepreneurship through its annual Female Entrepreneur Awards. This year, Ms. Kenalemang Olga Kgoroadira, a 2005 Study of the U.S. Institutes alumna, was recognized as the Best Subsistence Producer. Olga founded Thojane Organic Farm in 2009 as a cooperative in North

West Province. Congratulations to Ms. Kgoroadira on being awarded this most prestigious prize.

See all the winners as they appeared in [Mail & Guardian here](#).

To read more about the Female Entrepreneur Awards, see further [background here](#).



## Prof. Alan Morris awarded the WW Howells Prize



Professor Alan Morris, a 2012 Fulbright scholar, was recently awarded the W.W. Howells Prize from the American Association of Anthropologists for his book "Missing and Murdered: A personal adventure in forensic anthropology". Congratulations to Prof. Morris on this wonderful achievement. Reviewers have called this work the first scientific book for a general readership on the history of southern African forensic anthropology

and described it as captivating and entertaining. The book is in the realm of popular science and appeals to a wide readership offering a glimpse into the fascinating world of forensic anthropology and how information from bones is used to solve crimes.

To read more about *Missing and Murdered* or to order your copy, [click here](#).

## Ms. Jen Thorpe receives 2013 Emerging Old Rhodian Award

The Emerging Old Rhodian Award was established at Rhodes University in 2011 to specifically recognize and honor young Rhodian alumni who have excelled early in their career and show potential for continued success. Jen recently received the 2013 Emerging Old Rhodian Award. She is a 2011 Young African Women Leaders Forum (YAWL) alumna and has

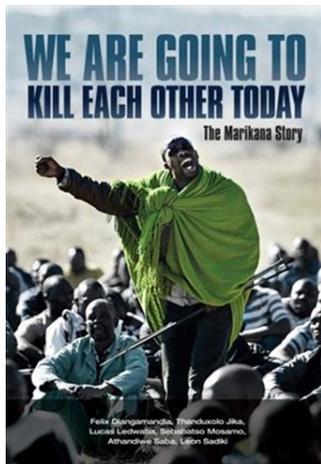
been recognized as a leading feminist writer and researcher in South Africa. She blogs for Mail and Guardian as well as Women24. In 2010, she was listed as one of the "200 Young People in South Africa that you should take to lunch."

To read more about Jen, see [her website](#), and the 2013 [Old Rhodian recipients](#).



## We are Going to Kill Each Other Today: The Marikana Story

co-authored by Thanduxolo Jika



Published by NB Publishers, *We are Going to Kill Each Other Today: The Marikana Story* was written by investigative journalists from *City Press*, namely: Thanduxolo Jika, Sebatso Mosamo, Leon Sadiki, Athandiwe Saba, Felix Dlangamandla, and Lucas Ledwaba. Jika is a 2012 IVLP alumnus, having participated in the Edward R. Murrow Program for Journalists. He was a winner in the features category in the Vodacom Awards in 2010, and a finalist for both the

Taco Kuiper and CNN awards in the general news category. He has been recognized as one of South Africa's most promising young journalists. This book tells the story behind the newspaper headlines.

The [Daily Dispatch review](#) calls the book gripping and a "riveting read about that sorrowful time".

[Click here](#) to purchase through Kalahari.

## Roam: A Novel with Music

by Alan Lazar

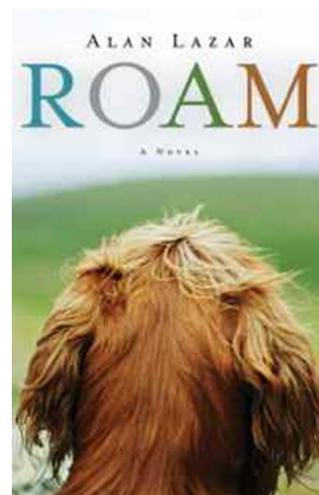
Alan Lazar is a platinum-selling musician/composer whose career began here at home in South Africa, as a keyboard player and producer for renowned local band, *Mango Groove*. Lazar is a 1994 Fulbright student alumnus having received his Master's of Fine Arts (MFA) from the University of Southern California (USC). He now lives in Los Angeles, where he has composed music for more than 30 films and TV shows. This is his first novel and has received rave reviews and was

runner up for the Los Angeles Book Festival Best Fiction Award. *Roam* is "a wise and heartwarming first novel about families, love lost and found, and a scrappy three-legged dog who is trying to find his way back home." *Roam* has been called both heart-warming and heart-breaking and hard to put down.

For more on Alan Lazar, see [his website](#).

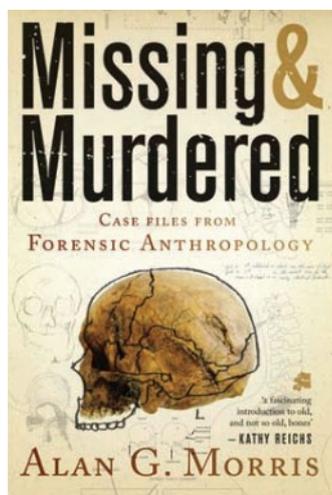
[Click here](#) to purchase through Amazon.

[Click here](#) to purchase through Kalahari.



## Missing and Murdered

by Alan Morris



Alan G. Morris is currently Professor in the Department of Human Biology at the University of Cape Town. A Canadian by birth and upbringing, he is also a naturalized South African and a 2012 Fulbright scholar alumnus. According to publishers Zebra Press, "*Missing & Murdered* uncovers the fascinating world of forensic anthropology and how information from bones is used to solve mysteries both modern and ancient. The popularity of TV programs such as the *CSI* trilogy and *Silent Witness* attests to

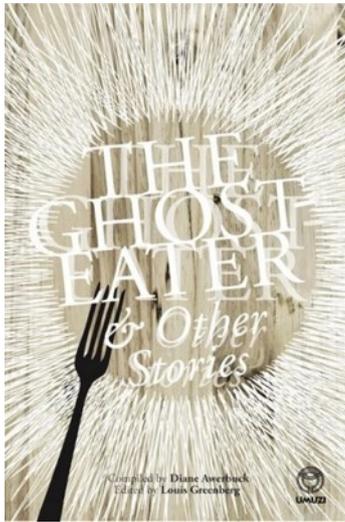
people's fascination with forensic science as a means of solving crimes, and this book follows the pathway into forensics via the fields of anthropology and anatomy. From multi-murders, criminal cases and the Missing Persons Task Team to the study of archaeological skeletons, *Missing & Murdered* will grip and engross readers from one intriguing chapter to the next."

[Click here](#) to purchase through Kalahari.

# The Printing Press

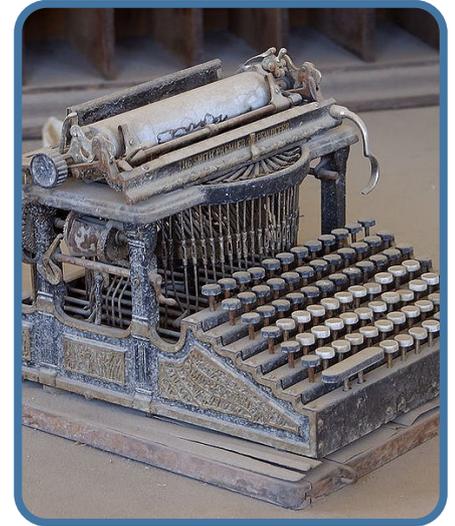
## The Ghost Eater and Other Stories

Compiled by Diane Awerbuck, Edited by Louis Greenberg



“Thirty-one writers, including 2011 YAWL alumna, Jen Thorpe, make their debut in *The Ghost-Eater and Other Stories*, a collection compiled by Diane Awerbuck and edited by Louis Greenberg. Funny, sad, and highly original, the stories in *The Ghost-Eater and Other Stories* are invested with the passion, truth and quirkiness of the newest New South Africa and gives readers a chance to gauge the newest authors writing in South Africa at the moment.” This compilation is available as an e-book.

[Click here](#) to purchase and download the e-book through Kalahari.



## Featured Alumna

### Ms. Zola Ndlovu, 2013 U.S. Department of State and espnW Global Sports Mentoring Program (GSMP) Alumna



The U.S. Department of State, the University of Tennessee, and espnW partnered for this mentorship program which selected sixteen women from all corners of the world and brought them together to unite through sport and empowerment. Ms. Zola Ndlovu was partnered with Ms. Norma Delaney, Global Marketing Lead for New Balance, as her mentor.

Zola works as a Sport Officer at eThekweni Municipality in their Sport Development

and Recreation Department. Zola is passionate about sports and credits it with teaching her many life lessons, including discipline, leadership, and assertiveness. “In life, you have to learn how to have social relationships with people. Sport taught me how to do this. It helped me be more confident, more outspoken, and less shy... I am so thankful I had sports as a girl. And it is my duty to provide this outlet for others.”

In her capacity as a Sports Officer for the eThekweni Municipality, Zola works with children who come from disadvantaged communities to create sport and life-skills programs. She was also recently selected to service on the Women and Sport Commission and has a more expansive platform from which to implement change. According to Zola, “Women in South Africa are supposed to stay at home, cook, clean, and look after the babies. Sport is not really encouraged for females. This is one of our greatest challenges – overcoming ideas about

women and their place in society.”

With New Balance’s commitment to women, their global reach, and their dedication to get children moving, Zola was inspired and motivated to continue to promote physical activities for girls in South Africa upon her return.



## Featured Alumna

Before departing for the U.S. in September, Zola said there are three things her mentor should know about her.

In her own words:

- I am passionate and driven to a point of being a bit dramatic
- I am a hard worker, innovative and I apply myself fully
- I am very receptive

Here are some insights into Zola:

***Favorite extreme sport to watch or play?***

Scuba diving or bungee jumping.

***If you were a crayon, what color would you be?***

Red. It's fiery, passionate and daring.

***Hidden talents?***

Of course... I can dance

***If you could meet anyone, alive or dead, who would it be and why?***

Mother Teresa – she was selfless, compassionate and humble. She instilled a sense of calm and security in others.

***If you could have any special ability, what would it be?***

The ability to change stereotypes.

***What is your favorite outdoor activity?***

Wall or mountain climbing.

***How would you describe an empowered woman?***

An empowered woman is ambitious, with a fighting spirit, empathetic, and consistent.

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

**“Sport is not really encouraged for females. This is one of our greatest challenges – overcoming ideas about women and their place in society.”**



*Zola with her mentor, Norma Delaney*

Currently I work for the city of Durban, which is in eThekweni Municipality, and I am a Sport Officer. Some of my tasks include facilitating the establishment of community sport forums, committees and clubs within wards, implementing and facilitating training opportunities, including coaching camps, seminars, and clinics, and I also work towards establishing positive partnerships between national, provincial and local government departments. My average day entails regular meetings with stakeholders to plan the development of sport, based on community needs, and to execute programs.

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

The program was very relevant to my day to day job and it afforded me an opportunity to grow both personally and professionally. It gave me greater insights in terms of sport development and mentoring. The program also created many opportunities for me to network and visit other organizations that have the same, or similar, objectives to my organization and my job. Personally, I had an experience of a lifetime, to travel internationally for the first time and to make new friends and sisters – we have now become a family through this program.

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

My goals are to take sport development to another level and to grow the women's programs and increase the participation of girls and women and to provide mentoring opportunities as well.

My dream is that 5-years from now, I will be in a management position within sport development so that I can make informed decisions at a strategic level to be able to influence sport development within eThekweni, particularly in disadvantaged areas.



*Zola (right) meeting fellow program participants*

During the Global Sports Mentoring Program, Zola had an opportunity to spend time in Washington D.C. as well as Boston and participated in numerous classroom, cultural, and site visits. This

## Featured Alumna

included trips to historical monuments, local high schools, and adapted recreational activities including wheelchair basketball and tennis games.

For more information on Women in Sports programs, [click here](#). Also, see the [media release](#) and [article](#) from espnW.



*Zola and other GSMP participants enjoying their program*



*Zola and GSMP participants visiting the Lincoln Memorial*

## Opportunities

As an alumnus/alumna, you have had the opportunity to engage with the U.S. via one of our exchange programs. **Pay it forward, inspire, and share these opportunities and deadlines with other talented South Africans!**

WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS

# LOOKING FOR 500 LEADERS

### APPLY TO BE A PART OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF AFRICAN LEADERS!

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 mid-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 U.S. Government is inviting young African leaders to apply to come to the United States as Washington Fellows beginning in mid-2014.

#### 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.

**APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED ONLINE AT [YOUNGAFRICANLEADERS.STATE.GOV](http://YOUNGAFRICANLEADERS.STATE.GOV)**



# Opportunities

## One Beat Program



OneBeat is an initiative of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and produced by Found Sound Nation.

It is an international cultural exchange that celebrates the transformative power of the arts through the creation of original, inventive music, and people-to-people diplomacy. OneBeat brings young musicians (ages 19-35) from around the world to the U.S. for one month to collaboratively write, produce, and perform original music, and develop ways that music can make a positive impact on our local and global communities. More than a performance program, OneBeat balances three principles -- dialogue, creation, and social engagement -- to foster mutual understanding and cooperation among citizens of the world.

South Africa is a participating country and

excellent musicians from all backgrounds are encouraged to apply, with or without formal musical training. OneBeat welcomes music of all genres.

**If you're interested in applying, here's what you should know about OneBeat:**

**1. Collaboration is central.** OneBeat offers musicians the opportunity to collaborate on new projects and to explore new musical traditions. Rather than showcasing solo talent, OneBeat musicians will work together across stylistic and cultural divides in pursuit of new musical possibilities.

**2. OneBeat is socially engaged.** We are looking for musicians who have a strong commitment to their communities and who are seeking new ways to engage in youth development, music education, music therapy, conflict resolution, a

global dialogue through music, and other ways of working towards more egalitarian and democratic societies.

**3. OneBeat is a FREE program (but not a paid gig).** The OneBeat program covers all Fellows' travel, transportation, food, and lodging. We also offer a modest stipend. While we are not able to pay performance fees, OneBeat offers Fellows a chance to create new material, establish lifelong musical partnerships and friendships, learn new marketable skills, tour the US, and develop professional connections.

**The deadline for applications is January 15, 2014.**

Go to <http://1beat.org/#> to apply!

# 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.

## Liezil Cerf

2013 IVLP Alumna, Director  
Parliamentary and Media Liaison at  
Government Communication and  
Information System (GCIS)  
[cerf.liezil@gmail.com](mailto:cerf.liezil@gmail.com)



Liezil's exchange dealt with investigating the intersection between government communication and the press in the United States. Commenting on her program, Liezil noted that "the exposure to media/government communication elements in the U.S. showed me that it's all about being transparent with the information you release to the public, whether you are the media or

government. That withholding your political agenda (whether you are a media owner, writer, or government official) from the audience borders or even equates to propaganda and misleading the public." Liezil's hobbies include gardening and writing, spending time with her family. Professional interests include media and communication landscapes, parliamentary platforms and government policy, and business administration.

## Andrew Whitfield

2013 American Council of Young Political  
Leaders (ACYPL) Alumnus, Councillor at  
Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality  
[whitfield.andrew@gmail.com](mailto:whitfield.andrew@gmail.com)

Andrew recently returned home to Port Elizabeth after participation in the ACYPL program. According to Andrew, "the American Council of Young Political Leaders exchange provided me with unique insight into the many layers of U.S. politics. Through meetings with strategists, campaign finance experts, chiefs of staff and public representatives at all levels of government I gained a better understanding of how U.S.



politics works." Andrew was also very impressed with the open and honest conversations about what does not work in U.S. politics. September 2013 was an interesting time for Andrew to be in the U.S. with debates over Obamacare and the Debt Ceiling being center stage on the political platform. Andrew is an avid fly fisherman and enjoys a round or two of golf as well. In his spare time he enjoys reading extensively about politics from philosophy to current affairs and especially enjoys spending time with friends and family which he says helps keep him grounded and relaxed.



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