

# THE ABE BAILEY



# BURSARY FELLOWSHIP

Newsletter # 89  
September 2014

P O Box 86  
CAPE TOWN 8000

Greetings to all Abe Bailey Bursars. It is a pleasure to share news about bursars old and new in this annual Newsletter. During the 2013 tour, bursars met some 58 Old Abes in Cape Town, London, Oxford, Cambridge, Bath and York. All of these were stimulating and pleasurable encounters, and reminded us all of the significant positive influence each of you has on those among whom you work and with whom you have contact. One 2013 bursar commented: "*A highlight of the tour was meeting with former Abes along the way, all people who, like me, were given the opportunity to embark on the Abe Bailey tour. Listening to their stories and seeing who they've become in their respective fields inspired me to dream bigger, to work far more and to give more to my country.*"

## 1 THE ABES OF 2014

Congratulations to the new Abe Bailey Bursars who join our Fellowship, now numbering 852. There are 18 new Bursars from 18 universities.

The successful Bursars for 2014 are:

### CAPE TOWN (UCT)

**Mr Rekgotsofetse Chikane** is reading for the B.Soc.Sci. degree. He served on the SRC as Vice-President for Internal Affairs, was a Board member for SHAWCO and participated in the SA-Washington International Programme as an intern. He was the Western Cape Co-ordinator for *InkuluFreeHied* where he was responsible for service projects in Cape Town and Stellenbosch.

### CAPE PENINSULA (CPUT)

**Ms Alice Scott** is currently working on the B.Tech. degree in Public Relations Management, having been awarded the National Diploma in this field *cum laude*. She was the student representative on the committee of the Western Cape Public Relations Institute of SA, and also took part in the Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation UK's Peace Symposium. She is involved in World Design Capital projects including design solutions for solid waste issues in the informal settlement of *Doornbach*.

### FREE STATE (CUT)

**Ms Zanele Matsane** is studying for the B.Tech. degree in Quantity Surveying having completed the National Diploma in Building Science. She is Student Representative for the Department of the Built Environment and also currently serves as a Lecturer Assistant. She has done community work at the *Marite Clinic* in Mpumalanga

### FREE STATE (UFS)

**Mr William Clayton** is reading for the B.A.Hons degree in International Relations after having completed the B.A. degree in Political Transformation and Governance. He served as President of the SRC and has participated extensively in the Global Leadership and Development Programme. He is involved in the DA's Young Leaders' Programme. He is a member of the Mangaung City Council, and volunteers in the NGO *Right to Learn* and the *Cancer Association*.

### JOHANNESBURG (UJ)

**Ms Blessing Masuku** is reading for the B.A. degree in Psychology. She serves as Vice-President of the Golden Key International Honour Society at UJ, and as the Campus Co-ordinator for *Enactus* which carries out community service projects. She also volunteers in township schools to assist learners, and in orphanages. She is currently a Student Assistant in the Psychology Department.

### KWAZULU-NATAL (UKZN)

**Mr Mfundo Mdletshe** is reading for the B.Soc.Sci. degree. He serves as an Academic Mentor and as a Supplemental Instruction Facilitator. Executive member of the Golden Key International Honour Society at UKZN, he is also Chairperson of *Green Quad Alliance*, an environmental organisation.

## LIMPOPO (UL)

**Mr Gabriel Mosiela** is in the 5th year of study for the MBChB degree on the Medunsa campus. He founded and leads a High School Mentorship Programme for Rural Areas, and, under the Centre for Academic Excellence, mentors 1st year students at Medunsa. He does voluntary service at hospitals in the region.

## MANGOSUTHU (MUT)

**Ms Sindi Sithole** is studying for the National Diploma in Information Technology (Software Development). She serves as Final Year Class Representative and as a Tutor for Technical Programming students. She is General Secretary of the Association for Tertiary Zion Students, a religious structure, and, in that capacity also a member of the Student Parliament. In community work she has volunteered at *Uthombo Orphanage*, and uses her IT skills in developing computerised systems for organisations.

## NELSON MANDELA METROPOLITAN (NMMU)

**Mr Curwyn Mapaling** is reading for the B.Psych. (Counselling) degree. He served as Vice- President of the Golden Key International Honour Society at NMMU and as Chairperson for the Student Alumni Society. In community outreach he has volunteered with a wide range of organisations, including *Project SOS*, *Home for the Aged*, *Disability Homes*, *Miracle Kids* and the *Transnet-Phelophepa Health Care Train*.

## NORTH-WEST (NWU)

**Ms Neo Panana** gained the B.Com. degree and is now reading for the B.Com.Hons in Financial Accounting. She is Deputy-President of the Golden Key International Honour Society at NWU, and Primaria of the Postgraduate Residence. She is involved in Qunu with the *Nelson Mandela Museum* as a *Camp Pioneer* in the annual winter school programme, and also participates widely in her church activities and community outreach.

## PRETORIA (UP)

**Ms Iris Nxumalo** is reading for the B.A.Hons degree in International Relations, having been awarded the B.Pol.Sci. degree *cum laude*. She serves as an Intern Lecturer in the Department of Political Sciences. She is Vice-president of the Golden Key International Honour Society at UP, Summit Co-ordinator and Programme Head of the African Youth Union and a Mandela-Rhodes Scholar. She is a volunteer with the *African Union Student Alliance* that works with high school students.

## RHODES (RU)

**Ms Caitlin Stobie** is reading for her B.A.Hons in English Literature. She presented a paper at the Literature and Ecology Colloquium. She is a Committee Member of the Rhodes Organisation for Animal Rights and active in promoting animal welfare. She volunteers at the SPCA and with the Farm Animal Centre for Education. She also reads tape aids at the Library for the Blind.

## STELLENBOSCH (US)

**Ms Faith Pienaar** is studying for the B.Agric. degree in Viticulture and Oenology. She is the course co-ordinator for the Frederick Van Zyl Slabbert Leadership Institute. She was an executive member of the Aweness First Generation Student Success camp where she spear-headed the Leadership through Service initiative delivering four service projects. She is a member of the SRC Safety and Security Council.

## TSHWANE (TUT)

**Mr Tiaan Oosthuizen** was awarded both the National Diploma and the B.Tech degree in Mechatronical Engineering *cum laude*, and is now studying for the M.Tech. in Mechanical Engineering as well as the M.Tech. in Control Engineering, the latter through the French South African Institute of Technology. In his community involvement he is a volunteer at *Cross Roads Outreach for Homeless People*, and in upliftment programmes through his church.

## VENDA (UV)

**Mr Goodenough Mabuze** is reading for the LLB degree. He is Deputy Chairperson for Amnesty International-Univen Society, a member of *Enactus* and a volunteer for the *Naledi Foundation* that works with high school students. He is also responsible for coaching 1st year law students in the Moot Court Club of which he is Secretary General, and for tutoring 1st and 2nd year law students.

## WESTERN CAPE (UWC)

**Mr Zola Mcaciso** is reading for the LLB degree. He served as Academic Officer of the Law Student Council and participated in

UWC's Advanced Leaders' Programme. Previously he travelled to Washington D.C. to take part in the SA-Washington International Programme.

## **WITWATERSRAND (WITS)**

**Ms Mapaseka Phala** is completing the LLB degree, having gained the B.A.Hons degree in Psychology *cum laude*. She is Editor of the WITS Law Journal, *Inkundla*, and was Vice-President of the Golden Key International Honour Society at Wits. She leads a tutoring team who work with high school students, assists in a weekly soup kitchen for homeless people, and volunteers in *Tshimologo*, a home for neglected children in Sophiatown.

## **WALTER SISULU (WSU)**

**Ms Zikhona Tshaka** is studying for the B.Tech.Information Technology degree in Software Development, having gained her National Diploma *cum laude*. She served as an Academic Society Representative in the Student Parliament, Secretary of the Computer Society and as a Peer-Assisted Learning Leader. She does youth work in her church.

## **2 THIS IS WHAT THE ABE BURSARS OF 2013 HAD TO SAY:**

*"I felt a ripple of Madiba's legacy when I looked at the diversity of the bursars. We each brought our own stories, and had to find gentleness in the way we form this into the narrative of our tour. Abes had opinions that challenged many norms - both in society and in each other. Through this dialogue we were able to nudge each other towards a clearer picture of our wish for South Africa. We had light moments of laughter, gregarious group singing and Scottish dancing, as well as slow moments where a slippery tear reflected the emotions of the theatre. Most significantly, we had time to get to know each other and form bonds that cross universities, racial groups, provinces and gender. Through this, we also had time to get to know ourselves and our country. Through the tour we celebrated the spirit of reconciliation and hope - wishes of both Sir Abe and Tata Madiba. Through our friendships we will keep this spirit alive and weave it through our own futures and importantly, the future of our country".*

**HELENE-MARI VAN DER WESTHUIZEN (US)**

*"The vigour, tenacity and passion demonstrated by the bursars left me feeling inspired, challenged and strengthened in pursuing what I believe in. It is always a remarkable experience when you find yourself amongst like-minded individuals who share a vision of change, growth and success for their country. It is an experience that only the Abe Bailey Travel bursary can offer. It connects young South African leaders and provides us with the space to openly express our concerns for our nation whether they are political, medical or economical. Every interaction we had formed a realm for resolution in which we attempted to seek the role we play in solving the problems of our country. The bursary offers a constructive environment where opposing opinions are valued and arguments offer enlightenment instead of creating dispute."*

**CAMILLE FREDERICKS (UWC)**

*"The Abe Bailey tour of 2013 was an inspiration and was perspective broadening in many ways. The tour created a platform for South Africa's top university students to interact and to engage on socio-economic and developmental issues of South Africa, and also to have a chance to reflect on South Africa as a country while away from it. It was my first time abroad, thanks to the Abe Bailey Trust; what a different person I am now! "*

**SIZWE MKWANAZI (UJ)**

*"Before the tour, I often felt that the Abe Bailey tour was explained to me with a great deal of exaggeration. Its power to change people's lives, integrate people of diverse cultures and promote South African unity was, I felt, a little over-ambitious. It took only 4 days for me to notice the magical realisation of the above aims. The tour taught me to appreciate the fine differences that exist in our societies, be they educational, historical and class differences"*

**SAKI LANGA (WITS)**

*"When I arrived in Cape Town I found myself surrounded by young, intelligent, passionate and successful South Africans, all here to embark on the same journey as me, but from different races, cultures and beliefs, from different provinces, universities and professions. I was overwhelmed by the richness and diversity of the group and for a moment, I questioned whether or not I could add anything to the group, a group with future doctors, lawyers, architects, entrepreneurs, journalists, writers and politicians; but then conversations were sparked and with passion flowing from our hearts through our mouths and into the ears of others, I realised that the Abe Bailey tour was going to change me...just how much, I'd only find out later. The lessons I learnt included being proud of our heritage, celebrating the people who helped shaped our great rainbow nation, uniting behind the ideals of a democratic society, working towards equality across all races and genders, upholding the dignity of our people and enforcing their constitutionally guaranteed rights".*

**PRISCAH RAMALEKANA (UP)**

*"I have been privileged to be part of various programmes, supposedly in the same league as the Abe Bailey tour, in Europe, the United States, West Africa, and I can confidently state that none of them compared to this magnificent opportunity. I remember the exuberant and bursting feeling of pride as I sang with my fellow South Africans, the national anthem in more places than one and especially around the statue of President Nelson Mandela - sharing in a heritage, a deep rooted pride, that only we could. I remember sitting in Cambridge and a few days later in Oxford, conversing with remarkable pioneers more or less the same age as myself and thinking how I could have ever thought that what I am doing is enough. I have always been an advocate for rising above mediocrity... I thought that my drive and motivation had become mediocre compared to the things these people were*

achieving. I am motivated to work harder, do more and become more than I could ever have imagined. I am ready to make a bigger CHANGE."

**MICHAEL VAN NIEKERK (UFS)**

"The Abe Bailey Tour is an inexplicable experience, fast-paced, well-organised and energy demanding on the body. If you want to touch people's lives meaningfully, do it well and execute it professionally with a sense of humility. These core values defined my experiences of the tour as we swiftly moved through the hustle and bustle of London whether by foot, train or bus. The tour touched me in the deepest marrows of my being as an individual, an aspiring academic and an active participant in the civic life of my country. The biggest gain of the trip is that as a group we found time to network, bond and establish memories that will run like an adulthood umbilical cord that threads through all of us as we individually and collectively fight for a better South Africa. In the discussions that we had through our individual presentations we contended, discussed, learnt and taught each other new ways of thinking. We introduced each other to different knowledge systems. The ethos of Ubuntu that "I am because you are" was put to action. Ours was to leave an indelible mark wherever we set foot, to prove to those in the developed world that despite the scepticism and pessimism that fills the present day about our country, there is hope for the future. That future is represented by us, that future is invested in by the Abe Bailey Trust."

**LUKHONA MNGUNI (UKZN)**

"The Abe Bailey tour did not change my life. Instead, it made it richer. I think that all of us - having been chosen according to the criteria of leadership, academic potency, and social involvement - already had the ingredients to be successful in our chosen fields. However, this tour opened us up to different cultures, alternative life choices, and friendships beyond our fields of specialisation, which all make for more open-minded, and culturally sensitive lives."

**LISA WEIDEMAN (NMMU)**

"There are moments when we were travelling together when I just took time to reflect on all we had done and seen and the people we had met. I tried to place a value on it but it was not possible. The reason why this experience is so priceless, is that we meet people who are not strangers to the Bursary Programme, they are really excited for us to be there and they make the effort to learn as much about us as we do about them--all of these people go out of their way to take our experience to the next level. For me it was the social experiences that made the trip, not just sight-seeing or learning about a different culture but rather the people who adopted us for the time we were there. Of course the fun never stopped and neither did the singing, we sang on the bus, in the tube, in pubs...in fact there were moments when we sang conversations to each other! I had my own views challenged and spent time challenging the views of others. I spent as much time trying to learn about as much as was possible about as many things as I could. It was an opportunity to engage, debate and discuss..."

**JORDAN GRIFFITHS (UP)**

"Definitely the most exhilarating, life-changing experience of my life! From getting on an airplane for the very first time, to walking the streets of London, to meeting some of the brightest young minds in the country. Bursars shared their stories of all the wonderful activities they were involved with and they inspired me to do so much more when I get home. This trip has shaped my whole outlook on certain aspects in life that I previously never considered important. This is something that will impact my everyday life for years to come."

**JENNY AUCAMP (CUTFS)**

"The Abe Bailey was an excellent platform for me to grow and to explore emotions that I never knew even existed. The trip was eye-opening and saw many opportunities that I would like to explore in the future, the leadership grooming and exploration was an amazing experience for me. The biggest lesson I learned and will continue to practise is to "LISTEN" and give other people a chance to express themselves. In this trip I had 14 outstanding students from different universities. I learned so much from these individuals. I learnt tolerance and acceptance for all people across race, gender and especially profession."

**EUVETTE TAYLOR (DUT)**

"Thank you for changing my life and my way of thinking! Thank you for giving me the ADVENTURE of a life time. Being taken right out of my comfort zone and placed in circumstances which I would never have imagined, made me realise that I want so much more in life. I want that rush that I got seeing new places and meeting new faces for the first time. I want that heart racing moment when you have to stand up in front of new friends and convey your passion or point in something other than your mother tongue! I want to feel the adrenalin when you get asked a question that baffles you, that gets you thinking, that gets you debating!"

**DONETT HAVENGA (NWU)**

"The more I walked the streets of Great Britain, the more inspiration overwhelmed my thoughts. I was inspired to go back to my community, academic setting and my campus and do more. I did not feel the need for South Africa to be a replica of Britain but I felt that we need to focus more on youth and social development and open a platform for ideas which are and will be significant in the development of our country. My life was touched and changed for good. My community is proud to have groomed a leader but above all I thank the Trust for looking after my community through me. I thank the Trust for letting me realise so many things about myself and the people around me."

**CLARAMAILA (UL)**

"A whirlwind of three weeks in the UK, with 14 amazing peers and friends and 2 truly inspirational mentors. The trip was an amazing experience. I don't think that anything could have prepared me for the intense impression that it would leave on me, and the passion that it would re-ignite for the beautiful country that we live in. Part of the influence of the trip was the idea of legacy, not only what we do in our life but what we leave behind for future generations. I think that all of my fellow bursars as well as I looked, maybe for the first time, at the idea of what we might leave behind to make our country a better place. My fellow bursars all showed themselves as amazing, passionate, intelligent people with varied opinions on a wide variety of topics. I think that as a group we always felt united by our love for our country and our passion to contribute to solutions that it needs instead of merely pointing out



its problems."

TESSA DODDS (TUT)

*"To me the Abe Bailey bursary is about motivating those who live in South Africa to become better and selfless leaders who will advocate for sustainable nation building. Sir Abe understood the significance of strong leadership in building a nation when he started this initiative. The Abe Bailey bursary has remarkably helped me to unleash my leadership potentials and skills; it has been an eye-opener for me. Through my fellow bursars I learnt the fundamental significance of strong leadership attributes and how they can grow one's self esteem in building a sustainable nation. I also realised that leadership is not only about decision making but rather is about making an impact on and influencing society positively. The bursary has been a road trip for me to unleash my potential...Many thanks to Sir Abe, may his legacy live forever in our hearts!!!!"* **KHOLO RADINGOANA (UV)**

### 3 LALANGOXOLO, TATA MANDELA

The tour party was in the city of York in the north of England when the devastating news of Nelson Mandela's death was released. The shock was palpable. We grieved together. Visiting York Minster the next morning, with our hearts very heavy, we gathered in a side chapel for a time of reflection and prayer, so that each could reflect on this momentous happening and on his inspiring life. We went on to Edinburgh where, in the ultra-modern Scottish Parliament building we signed condolence books to pay tribute to Madiba. On our return to London we went again to his statue in Parliament Square. Each one laid a red rose among the extensive floral tributes, and together, with enormous pride but with aching hearts, we sang *Nkosi Sikelele*. Then in South Africa House in Trafalgar Square, we signed the condolence books. In their feedback on the tour, some of the bursars shared these poignant moments.

*"We were in York when we heard the news that Nelson Mandela had passed. We all came downstairs and watched the president's address; at that moment, we wanted to be home...to be around our people and to celebrate his life with them, to grieve his passing, but it was incredible to see, how much of an impact the news had made on the rest of the world, to see how our leader was an icon in the eyes of many others...how his life had touched more than just our lives. South Africa lost a father, but he left us with something to be proud of, something to fight for...freedom, equality, dignity for all and love. Standing in Parliament Square and singing the national anthem surrounded by people from all over the world, tears streaming down my face, my heart filled with pride, filled with love and loss...filled with hope. That was my moment, that change...I know what he fought for and I want to live my life fighting for it too."* PRISCAH

*"The death of Tata Mandela will remain a moment etched into our memories, irrevocably part of the 2013 Abe Bailey tour. During our first visit to Parliament Square, his was the only statue erected of a living leader. Upon our return, the colourful tributes rippling from his statue's feet showed the phenomenal global reach of his message of hope and reconciliation"* HELENE-MARI

*"It gave a greater understanding and appreciation of how the UK has influenced and has been influenced in return by its joined history with South Africa. I don't think that anything revealed this as much as the unhappy passing away of the Father of our Nation, Nelson Mandela. However, to experience in a foreign country how not only South Africa, but the entire world mourned this great man was a truly humbling experience."* TESSA

### 4 GOODBYE TO THE DEPARTING 2013 ABES

We met at *Atlantic Imbizo* above the Cape Town Waterfront to say goodbye to the 62nd tour of Abe Bailey Bursars last November. With 86 present, Old Abes representing 16 universities across 21 Abe tours, Trustees and the new Abes shared an enjoyable evening and launched the new bursars on an experience of a lifetime. Among us were 14 Abes from the first two decades of the Travel Bursary Programme (1951 to 1970), as well as **Louis van Pletsen (UFS 1985)** who lives in London but was in Cape Town on business. Amazingly he also attended the Welcome Reception a few days later in London! Five of the 2012 Abes had come to Cape Town to share in this function, and to hand over a gift to their successors.

Five of the **1963 Abes** had gathered from around South Africa to mark their half-century anniversary: **Dawie de Villiers (US), Ron Scheurenberg (UCT), Peter Janisch (UN), Willem van Niekerk (UP) and Stan Ridge (UN)**. Stan addressed the gathering and challenged the new Abes to live out Sir Abe's ideals and make a powerful impact through their lives. **Roné McFarlane (US 2012)** shared with us the influence that the tour experience had made on her life in confirming the pivotal role she can play as a young South African.

### 5 ABE BAILEY BURSAR GALLERY AT THE BURN HOUSE, SCOTLAND

**David Turner**, manager of The Burn House, where Abes have spent exceptionally pleasant and relaxing days towards the end of the UK tour, has established a dedicated Abe Bailey Tour display board in the newly refurbished Burn House. Hitherto "thank you" cards from various tour groups with their photos were pinned up in the upper sports room. He now hopes to extend this idea to include as many photographs of former tour groups as we can lay our hands on. To date I have received formal photos of the tours of 1956, 1959, 1963, 1966, 1969, 1973, 1984, 1996 and 2004. I think the "thank you" card photos date from the early 2000's. If any

other groups have a photo of your whole group and can send it to me or scan a copy for me, I shall be very glad to add it to these which I am taking to The Burn House at the end of the year.

## 6 WELCOME TO THE 2014 ABE BAILEY BURSARS IN LONDON

Any old Abes who are in or near London are warmly invited to join us for the Welcome Reception at Goodenough College in Mecklenburg Square on **MONDAY 1ST DECEMBER at 6.30 for 7 p.m.** Director *Andrew Ritchie* will be our host. If you have not yet received an invitation, please send your name, tour year and e-mail address to the Director's P.A., *Naomi Schulke*, at [naomi.schulke@goodenough.ac.uk](mailto:naomi.schulke@goodenough.ac.uk) so that she can send you the official invitation with details about the venue. It would be a great pleasure to have you join us for that function.

## 7 NEWS FROM ABES AROUND THE WORLD

We are sad to record the death of these Fellows:

- **Con Botha (US 1954)**
- **Ivan Nurick (UCT 1957)**
- **Hugh Kowarsky (WITS 1963)**

We offer our sincere condolences to the families and tour mates of these Abes

**Willem Van Zijl (US 1955)** informed me of **Con's** death and commented: "*The Abe Bailey Bursary was one of my most memorable privileges. My sincere gratitude for your guardianship of the Abe Bailey Fellowship.*" Con's brother, **Wim Botha (US 1968)**, also did so, and added: "*I believe that we were the first pair of brothers to be Abe Bailey bursars.*" **Neville Rubin (UCT 1956)** wrote: "*I am in Lyon, France, at this time of the year and was pleased to receive Morag Naylor's letter with the Address List. I have reproduced the photo of the 1956 group taken at London House. I would like to be at the Farewell Dinner this year. Sadly, Ivan Nurick, who had always encouraged my participation, died last year.*" Thanks for the photo — we hope to see you at the dinner.

**Chris Murray (Rhodes 1957)** wrote: "*A short note to say that I am still alive, kicking and in rude good health. I very much appreciate receiving the Abe Bailey Newsletter. In #88 you have omitted my name from the Abe Old Andreans. I was at St Andrews from 1945 to 1948 — and indeed was born in Upper House where my father was Housemaster from 1919 to 1939.*" Good to hear from you and find you so well. Thanks for correcting the record — brings that total to 6. Your tourmate, **Madder Steyn (UP 1957)** was also in touch: "*Baie dankie dat ek nog altyd pos van jou ontvang. Waardeer dit opreg. My en my vrou se gesondheid het, na 'n ernstige motorongeluk, so verswak dat ons tans in 'n huis vir verswakke bejaardes tuis is. Voorspoed toegewens.*" Baie jammer om te hoor wat julle te beurt geval het, Madder. Sterkte en aangename herinneringe vir dae wat voorlê.

**Saul Bastomsky (Wits 1959)** who lives in Australia, wrote: "*Thank you for the latest Newsletter. I always read them with interest, but have been remiss in contributing. I remember with a sense of nostalgia the 1959 tour-with you and Allan Powell as the UCT representatives-so many years ago. I recall also discussing politics with Ben Pieters (US) on the train somewhere in England. When the tour paid a visit to South Africa House, I remember the argument I got into with the High Commissioner, which was no doubt a factor (among others) in my being banned some years later. This led to me leaving South Africa on an exit permit and after a spell as a visiting fellow at Clare College, Cambridge, I obtained a post at Monash University in Australia, where I retired some 15 years ago as Head of Classics and Archaeology. By the way, after the change in South Africa, I got back my citizenship from the date I had left, so I now enjoy the citizenship of both countries. Please pass on my best wishes to the current Abes for a fruitful and pleasant tour.*" Great to have news from you, Saul — warmly reciprocated.

From the USA another 1959 bursar, **John Chettle (Natal)** wrote: "*It was good to hear from you. I had some additional encouragement to write because when Rudolph Gruber and Sheila (Rhodes 1959) were last in the US they passed on your good wishes. I retired some years ago from the practice of law, and went down to Richmond, Virginia. During this time I returned to my first love, history, and was an adjunct professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, and delivered lectures on "What Do Presidents Read?? And does it Matter?" I'm sure you will agree with me that it does, but you may be doubtful whether some Presidents have fully understood the value. We returned two years ago to the Washington area-less than a mile from George Washington's house at Mount Vernon-to our daughter who was combining the roles of mother with being the director of one of the major railroad companies. I'm sure many of the Abies of our vintage will need no elaboration on the duties involved as grandparents. They have been very pleasant, my soccer has improved beyond all recognition, and I have become reacquainted with the many adventures of Winnie the Pooh. Last year we celebrated our 50th anniversary, we are both in very good health, and hope that those who accompanied me on the Abe Bailey have been as fortunate as we have been. Very best wishes.*" Also from 1959, **Rob Parker (Natal)**: "*I note that you are still at the helm of the Abe Bailey Fellowship. My wife unfortunately passed away suddenly in December. My life has changed completely as she was my constant companion and soul mate for 26 years. I have now become completely domesticated and do everything myself when I am not playing golf, which is three times a week. This is all keeping me fit and healthy and from being lonely...fortunately I have family members nearby. Best regards.*" Good and sad reports from some of my own tourmates-thank you 1959-ers for your interesting news, and best wishes to the whole team.

**Ian Strickland (UCT 1961)** and his wife, Hilary, joined the 2013 bursars to see Matilda on the West End: *"It was good to see you in November 2013. What an impressive collection of young men and women they are! They are clearly excellent ambassadors for South Africa and made us feel that they would be a force for good as they develop into mature leaders in their communities. We thoroughly enjoyed the performance of Matilda the Musical. Keep up the inspiring work you are doing for the Trust...we live in a retirement village called Denham Garden Village which is located 8 miles north of Heathrow."* The Stricklands also attended the Welcome Reception at Goodenough College. Delightful to see you both again and have you meet the bursars — I hope we can repeat that this year.

A pleasure to reconnect with **Neil Callie (Wits 1962)** who lives in Plettenberg Bay: *"Thanks to his sleuthing diligence, my fellow Abe Bailey traveler of yore, **Andy Mackenzie (Natal)** tracked me down for a nostalgic chat. In the process, he observed that I was a faceless member of our fraternity at present, which status I hasten to correct. Thank you for your assistance, and my warm greetings to all involved in your so-special fraternity."* Happy to be in touch again, Neil. Unable to join the 50th Re-union of the 1963 Abes at the Farewell Dinner last year, **Piet Venter (Potchefstroom 1963)** wrote: *"Only three months ago my wife and I moved to the Karoo and I am very sad to inform you that we won't be able to attend the Farewell Dinner...it seemed like a very exciting idea-meeting again after so many years, but...making the trip comes at a very inconvenient time for us. Please give my good wishes and warm greetings to the group of 1963."* You were missed, Piet, but your situation fully appreciated. Happy settling in Graaff-Reinet. **Roelf du Plessis (Potchefstroom 1964)** sent updated contact details and greetings from Namibia.

**Ronnie Scheurenberg (UCT 1964)** brought us up-to-date: *"Although I'm supposed to be retired, I find I'm as busy as I ever was. I'm still working for Knight Piesold as a specialist geotechnical consultant on a contract basis...in addition I was lecturing geotechnical engineering part time at the University of Johannesburg last year...I'm active in mentoring younger engineers, both at Knight Piesold and elsewhere, and am also involved with the Engineering Council of South Africa...I continue to enjoy reading the Abe Bailey Fellowship News for which many thanks for the effort you keep putting in. It would be rather nice if an Old-Abes get-together could be organised again in Gauteng as the last one was some years ago. Maybe one or two of the more recent Fellows would be interested enough to organise something. Regards, and best wishes to the Fellows for 2014."* Thanks, Ron. Any younger Abes up for the Gauteng challenge?

An up-date from **Gus Garforth (Wits 1965)**: *"I retired from full-time work at the end of October last year after 34+ years with Crawford & Co, insurance loss adjusters in Johannesburg. I look forward to continued receipt of Abe Bailey correspondence and news. Regards."* Enjoy more relaxed years ahead, Gus. From a fellow bursar, **Pieter van der Walt (Potchefstroom 1965)**: *"Dankie vir die gereelde adreslyste en nuusbriewe wat ek ontvang. Dit is baie interessante leesstof. Sterkte met die mooi taak wat jy verrig. Vriendelike groete."* **Ernst van der Walt (US 1966)** sent a handsome photograph of the 1966 group: *"I enclose a digital photo of the group. With high appreciation for your endeavours to the Trust over many years. Best wishes."* **Boet Coetzee (Natal 1967)** kindly sent me the latest contact details for **Anton Pauw (UP 1967)**: *"Anton and his wife are relocating to Boggomsbaai. Trust you are keeping well and thank you for keeping the Fellowship on track."* Exciting news from **Johan Mostert (OVS 1969)**: *"Volgende jaar hoop ek om Skotland te besoek en weer by al die distillerye aan te doen — 45 jaar later! Die verblyf destyds by The Burn was werklik 'n hoogtepunt van die toer. Kan ons Oud-Abes daar gaan bly wanneer ons in daardie geweste is? Dit sal lekker wees om aangename herinneringe op te diep."* I confirmed to Johan that the Manager of The Burn, David Turner, is more than keen to welcome Old Abes to stay there; in fact two others who were in touch for details, have spent time there during the last year. Keep this in mind if you visit Scotland.

From **Bruce McInnes (Wits 1970)**: *"It makes a lot of sense to use email in future for all correspondence...please count me in!...The Burn all those years ago...such happy memories and the experience of a lifetime."* So ook **Johan van Rensburg (Potchefstroom 1970)**: *"Ek sal graag die nuusbriewe per e-pos ontvang...Baie dankie vir die gereelde skrywes en adreslyste."* **Japie Engelbrecht (UPE 1972)**: *"I dug up my photograph, still in its original wrapping, and had a look at the young men in the photo. Where have all the flowers and all the young men gone, as well as those days and the time? We look so young and eager. Now we are all getting to the end of our careers. I am including my original photograph for you to take to The Burn. It remains a privilege for me to have been selected as an Abe and to receive regular news of friends and "new" family members. And now I will, albeit in spirit, return to The Burn! We have just returned from a visit to Sweden...a great time with research collaborators there...thereafter in Johannesburg during the annual conference of the SA Institute of Physics ...I was awarded Honorary Membership of the SAIP. This is one of the highest awards of the Society...I was flabbergasted...humbling to realise that people see when one walks the extra mile. I am trying to become "retired" after retiring at the end of last year, but was requested to assist with teaching Mechanics to 1st year students. Best wishes, and please give our regards to the Manager of The Burn."*

Good to hear from **Michael King (Rhodes 1973)** now retired from the deputy headmastership at Diocesan College: *"Yes, 'retired' is a great place to be in. I immediately enrolled in the Creative Writing Masters degree at UCT, so I am once again a full-time student and all I have to do is read and write to my heart's content! It is a wonderful experience, and I suspect that university is wasted on the youth."* News from **Teuns Verschoor (UP 1974)**: *"I'm retiring at the end of next year and Dr Swemmer has taken over the annual Old Abes' lunch arrangements, inviting all Abes within a radius of about 200km from Bloemfontein."* For many years Teuns has organised this event to meet the newly selected bursar for each year. Thanks for this stalwart service, Teuns, and enjoy your retirement. **Anton du Plessis (UP 1975)** updated contact details, and commented: *"I noted that one of my home department's students was awarded the 2013 bursary — a very good student. Abe greetings."* **Cedric McClelland (UPE 1975)** wrote: *"It is always with a sense of anticipation that I receive the latest Newsletter and a pleasure to be able to read the news from*



Old Abes. It is fascinating to see how widely they are dispersed throughout the world. In my own case, I have stayed put at the same institution where I studied. I am due to retire at the end of 2014, having held the Chair of Organic Chemistry and also functioning as the Director of one of the schools in our Faculty of Science. Kind regards." Happy and relaxed days ahead, Cedric.

**Henk Schoemans (UPE 1977)** from Namibia, made contact: "Not having formally communicated with the Fellowship for a long time, it is a good opportunity to say thank you for the frequent updates on developments. Living in a small country such as Namibia, I am active in many disciplines, and expected to contribute widely! I have been (and am) living a life rich in experience. We live in an extraordinary and beautiful country. The businesses, originally family-owned and since evolved, have grown dramatically over the years, and the industries/markets we serve, expanded...Have been wondering whether the question of informally mobilising selective networks within the Fellowship to explore a particular topic of interest have arisen, or have been tested in the past?" I met Henk for coffee when he was in Cape Town, and he shared further insights into an initiative in which he is involved. "On networks within the Fellowship: The dynamics of disruptive change and increased complexity, globally, seem to require renewed attention to inclusivity and collaborative input. What was previously accepted as perhaps normal or practice, is no longer necessarily fit to purpose. Debate on inequality and poverty, role of capitalism, the environment, and socio-economic development and the role of the various communities therein, for instance, come to mind. If the future is to be better than the past, active participation by cooperative structures within society at large, formal and informally, is indicated. Collectively we can use all the help we can get! The imperative remains therefore, to continuously explore additional avenues to share experiences and ideas, and attempt to devise an improved joint way forward, nationally, regionally and internationally. Our AB Fellowship just seemed a logical participant, it being so diverse in many respects, and having members representative of all ages and walks of life. There are many possible routes to follow; exploring networks for this purpose within the Fellowship could be considered desirable...I want to raise the idea, in order that you may be informed of a Commonwealth and inter-governmental initiative, now also coming to South Africa in the next months. Perhaps there could be a role for individuals within our Fellowship. We have utilised networks representative of society (government, labour, business, politicians, press, youth and women) within the region with some success. Various mechanisms have been applied e.g. from dialogues to think tanking. You may visit the website [www.cptm.org](http://www.cptm.org) for more information. My own involvement, national and international, is as a companion of this movement, and is voluntary." Interested Abes may want to visit the website and/or make contact with Henk at [henk@schoemans.com.na](mailto:henk@schoemans.com.na). Also read about the initiatives of **Hansie du Plessis (1997)** and **Ryan Lamb (2011)** below, and make contact with them.

**Ronnie Scheurenberg (UCT 1964)**, a fellow geotechnical engineer, kindly sent me the following about **Peter Day (Natal 1978)**: "Motivated by what Peter Day calls curiosity, he followed a career in geotechnical engineering practice during which he contributed to the advancement of the field. The exceptional nature of his contribution was recognized by the University of Stellenbosch when he was awarded the senior doctorate degree DEng in 2013." Congratulations Peter, a high tribute. From **Brian Schapiro (UCT 1982)** in the USA: "I am living in Ann Arbor Michigan where I am a dermatopathologist working at St Joseph Mercy Hospital. I visit Cape Town to see family about twice a year. If any Abes find themselves in Michigan I would love to connect with them... Thanks for the informative letter showing where all the Abes have landed."

A foursome from 1983 were in touch: **Mark Stanbridge (Natal 1983)** in Australia also opted into email correspondence: "Thank you so much for the latest Abe Bailey listing. As of November last year our firm Blake Dawson merged with Ashurst. We now practise under this name on a global basis. We have over 400 partners in 28 offices in 16 countries. Warm regards." **Sam Cohen (Wits)**: "It was with dismay that I read in Newsletter 88 of the murder of **Alex Otten (UCT 1983)**. I regret not having maintained my relationship with Alex whom I last saw 30 years ago and with whom I developed a strong friendship, together with **Mark Stanbridge** as well as **Pieter van Niekerk (Stellenbosch)**. Kind regards." **Kathy Sole (Rhodes)**: "It was really great to catch up on all the news and I was pleased to see that the reactions and experiences of the recent Fellows remain very similar to those that I retain from 1983. It was a pivotal event in my life in many ways, and I have always treasured the experiences, friendships and self-knowledge that came from that period...I moved to the US in 1989 where I obtained my PhD in metallurgical engineering at the University of Arizona. I then returned to South Africa and worked for Mintek and then for Anglo American. About three years ago, I moved out on my own and currently operate as an independent consulting hydrometallurgist...it has been a wonderful experience overall. I have worked in several unusual places that I never expected to visit and have been involved in some great projects with most interesting people. Kind regards." **Muzi Ndwande (Unizul)**: "I remember fondly the places we visited in Britain as well as the people we met. For me who came from a small village in KZN, it was an eye-opening experience. Though I have travelled extensively all over the world as a research scientist, nothing compares to that first experience of travelling to a foreign country. It was also good to meet and travel with fellow South Africans. I still remember the diverse views of that group! The changes that have taken place in our country are amazing....After serving as Professor and Head of Department of Physics and Engineering at the University of Zululand for several years, I was appointed as Dean of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture in 2013. I have this opportunity to work with a diverse group from different fields of Science. I can say that the trip in 1983 prepared me to interact and work with different people and allows me to consider very carefully 'other views' in any discussion. I thank the Abe Bailey Trust for the opportunity I had." Wonderful to hear from so many of the 1983 team and to enjoy your comments and news. Best wishes to you all.

Another who selected email contact was **Petrus van Blerk (NWU 1986)**: "I cannot thank you enough for the Address list and Newsletter, especially the well-prepared manner in which it is compiled. I look forward to receiving it by email. Best wishes."

Three 1990 Abes made contact: **Anita Dekker (Potchefstroom)** also elected newsletters by email. She is a Sci-Bio Feedback Specialist, a Trauma Releasing Exercises Facilitator and Executive Director of Sportron International with the challenging slogan "Re-energise your life through wellness!" **Karen Thomas (UCT)**: "I'm happy to receive the Fellowship list via email. I've also



contacted **Devadass Pillay (UWC)** as I notice you have no contact details for him. Dev also works at Old Mutual in our Corporate division. I look forward to seeing you at the Farewell function. Best regards." Thanks, Karen. I hope you and Dev will join us at Atlantic Imbizo on 26th November. **Mike Briggs (UCT)**, in Bath, UK, joined the 2013 Abes for *Fiddler on the Roof* at the Theatre Royal in Bath — good to see you and have you meet the Abes: "Great to hear that the Abe Bailey is still going strong. What a fantastic opportunity for the students! Heading up to *The Burn* in Scotland was definitely the highlight for me. I clearly remember the Cape Town leg of the tour, especially the visit to Abe Bailey's grave on Boyes Drive...I'm a project and programme management consultant working with a small niche consultancy based in London. My current role is on a combined programme with a number of London boroughs. I have lived in the UK for about 17 years now. My wife is a primary school teacher at Kingswood School in Bath; the school has historical connections with Kingswood, Grahamstown in the Eastern Cape. Regards."

**Corneel Pelser (Potchefstroom 1994)** wrote: "Hello, still going strong it seems! Currently Legal- and Technical Specialist at Sanlam, and living in Somerset West. Love the Western Cape and we are here to stay. I would like to receive letters via email please. Regards." **James Fernie (UPE 1994)** works with a large array of community projects: "Uthando (Love) South Africa is holding its 3rd Benefit Event on the 6th of September 2014 in the historic Cape Town City Hall. This spectacular and inspiring event is the pinnacle of 5 years of Uthando. Please join us in celebrating the finest and most inspiring community projects in Cape Town."

The 2013 Abes enjoyed the company of **Charles Walters (Rhodes 1996)** and his wife Cath for dinner in York en route to Scotland: "Thank you again for the delightful dinner we enjoyed in York with the Abes. It must have been sobering waking up on that Friday morning to the news that Nelson Mandela had passed away. Warm regards." **Hansie du Plessis (Potchefstroom 1997)** reconnected with the Fellowship: "I am a Fellow of the Abe Bailey Travel Bursary and was awarded this honour in 1997. I have been trying to organise the Fellows into an online grouping...already hosting a moderate 20 members. I am desirous of continuing as I believe the online Fellowship can allow advantages to Abes. ...some formality behind it so we can ensure an accepted list...I do believe it has value." An interesting initiative, Hansie. Co-incidentally I enjoyed coffee with **Ryan Lamb (UFS 2011)** recently who is about to leave for Goodenough College, to take up a Sykes Foundation Scholarship at University College, London. He launched a closed Linked-In group, called *Abe Bailey Bursars*, for Abes of different years and has some 80 members. Hansie and Ryan's email details are: [hduplessis@innfront.co.za](mailto:hduplessis@innfront.co.za) and [ryanelamb@gmail.com](mailto:ryanelamb@gmail.com). Make contact with either of them if you would like to be included, or to discuss how to develop these networks appropriately.

**Liesel Coetzee (UFS 1998)** wrote: "I am still living in Bethlehem with my husband and 3 kids. I am a physio and have my own private practice. I still enjoy exercise and running, and have completed the Ironman event and 2 Comrades Marathons. Hope to hear from the other Abes." **Chris Bender (UFS 1999)** reconnected: "Looking forward to reading the Newsletter. Thank you for keeping us up-to-date. Keep well."

Into the 21st century! **Chris Thurman (Rhodes 2000)** wrote: "It has been a long time since we were in touch! My wife Ciska and I recently welcomed a baby boy into our family. I have now been at Wits for seven years and am looking forward to a sabbatical break in 2015. As one research project culminates - I have a new book out: *South African Essays on 'Universal' Shakespeare - new ones begin!* When I put my "official" research and teaching interests in Shakespeare, US cultural studies and SA literature temporarily aside, I keep myself entertained with arts journalism. (I have a weekly column in *Business Day*) and the odd bit of political commentary. All the best to the Abes-to-be of 2014." Up-dated contact details from **Debra Gray (Natal 2000)** who is in the Department of Psychology at the University of Winchester in the UK. **Carin Tredoux (UP 2001)** wrote: "Thank you very much for the Abe Bailey Newsletter! It is fantastic to read about everyone's adventures through life. My life also took some interesting turns and we moved to Kemptonpark last year when my husband responded to a calling from another Gereformeerde Kerk. I still travelled to Sasolburg daily to finish a project. I acted as Engineering Manager on the Project and it was an incredible journey...I travelled internationally for work a few times and each time I board the plane memories of our Abe's tour...bring a smile to my face. I hope to catch up with **Dinesh Balliah (Natal 2001)**. Kind regards."

On Facebook I came across **Unati Speirs (Fort Hare 2002)**: "Congratulations to Ms Unati Speirs, Chief Director IDD: Agro-Processing, on being honoured with a special award by the SA Poultry Association...in recognition of the contribution made by Ms Speirs to the poultry industry over the years. She has been leading the programme to grow this highly important sector of the economy." Congratulations on this tribute, Unati. From **Matthew Charlesworth (Rhodes 2002)**: "Greetings. This is just a quick note to say I was in Johannesburg until the end of August. Thereafter I'll be in Toronto for two years. Best wishes." Also on the go is **Nonto Hlela (Durban-Westville 2002)** who was in the SA diplomatic mission in Kenya until July and now is back in Johannesburg. Very welcome news from **Anton van Zyl (US 2002)**: "It's always such a pleasure to receive the Newsletter - reading it brings back all the fondest memories of our year and the many catch-ups since. I'm still based in Paris for the moment, but have called time on my rugby career and will be heading back to Cape Town in August. This should mean that I will be able to make my debut at the Abe Bailey dinner this year if all goes according to plan. Going forward I'd like to receive the newsletter by email. It'll still make for a fascinating read! I look forward to catching up at the dinner. Regards from Paris." Indeed that will be a pleasure, Anton, we look forward to seeing you again-welcome home.

**Charle Steyl (UP 2004)** wrote: "Chris and I have moved back to Gauteng, now in Midrand. Sad to leave the Cape! I am with International SOS, currently doing rotations to Madagascar. Kind regards." **Philip Phatudi (UP 2005)**, a Registrar in Ophthalmology at the National District Hospital in Bloemfontein, wrote: "I'm glad to see that you are still planting seeds of great leadership through this awesome programme. I can't believe it's been 9 years already. I still tell of stories from the Burn and

Goodenough College. **Wynand Smit (NWU 2005)** wrote: "Thanks for the Newsletter...I again felt that sense of being an Abe for life — what a privilege! I met up with **Zelda Swanepoel (UP 2005)**, literally bumped into each other at RMB Winex — was great to see her." **Tanya Smith (Rhodes 2006)** was in touch: "I was delighted to get the annual Abe Bailey Address list, and I think it's an excellent idea to convert to an email format...I'm still in contact with a couple of Abes, and still astounded by the quality of the friendships we've developed since our trip so many years ago. It's also so wonderful to see where everyone has landed up as we've grown up. Kind regards."

**Lourens du Plessis (US 2006)** sent news from London: "I'm coming up to my three year anniversary in London! Time has certainly flown...it is certainly feeling like home now. It's been quite some years in the UK, what with royal weddings, births, the Olympics and diamond jubilees - really a great time to have been living and working in the UK. Work-wise it's also been very interesting. Things are developing all the time in the banking sector, so I've been quite busy, but the challenges have been great. Being here in London at this time has been such good exposure, and I'm looking forward to finding out what the next couple of years hold in store. I'm also still quite involved in the church-plant I helped set up in Canada Water. I'm grateful to say God's been very good to us, and we're now in a place where we might be in a position to build a network of churches in the city. All of this really was put in motion eight years ago when a group of us met up in the Waterfront and jumped on a plane to London. It'll be great to see you and the new group of Abes in November. I'm quite envious of them and the experience that waits for them!"

A trio from **2008** were in touch: **Aidan Kingwill (UFS)**: "I bumped into a Tuks alum who was an Abe a few years before me, **Philip Pathudi (UP 2005)**. We work together in Bloemfontein. It was a treat recapping a few of the special memories we both hold from our tour. It is also a testament to the function of the Abe Fellowship to continue bringing people together long after the tour. Since our tour in 2009 I've completed my internship and com-service years — three years spent in PE that were very happy ones. I started back in Bloem as a registrar in Anaesthesiology last year. It is great being back in an academic environment and I see myself staying on, long term." **Marietjie Louw (CPUT)**: "I have been wondering what the Abes have been up to these past months, wanting to see them again face to face. What a colourful and joyous bunch we are. I completed my Honours in Arts Education, started my own music school last year, and have volunteered at a local NGO, teaching Grade 11's to write poetry. In 2012 I published my own anthology of verse, *The Shaping of the Vessel by the Potter's Hand*. I am proud to celebrate these successes with such a super group of people as the Abes." **Barry Smith (US)**: "So much has happened since my participation in the 2008 tour! I graduated MB.ChB in 2009 and got married that December. We were blessed with a son in 2013. We now stay in Kenridge. I practise at Durbanville MediClinic Emergency Centre. I read every Newsletter and hope to attend the farewell dinner now that I am living in Cape Town again." Well done to all of you on your achievements and exciting developments. We look forward to seeing you, Barry, at this year's Farewell function.

Great to have news from four of the **2009** tour. **Ivor Abromowitz (Wits 2009)**: "I moved up to Johannesburg in April 2013 to take up a new job with Ernst & Young, in their Human Capital Consulting division. I feel so lucky to have found the job because there is a great mix of human capital analytics (taking from the Labour Economics that I studied) as well as human capital development, leadership development, talent management and more. Needless to say I am constantly being stretched and loving it. Cape Town was good, but I wasn't challenged in my job and was missing being near my family...I will have to make a plan to be in Cape Town so as to be able to meet up with the new Abes. Take care." **Hein Visser (NMMU)**: "Happy to report that I have been offered a position at the London office of an American law firm Weil, Gotshal & Manges, working in the firm's private equity group. I have moved back to the UK on a 3-year work visa. Two incredible Abe Fellows, **Michiel le Roux (US 1971)** and **Garreth Bloor (UCT 2009)** were instrumental in helping me with the process. Amazing what we can do when we put our heads together!" **Vincent Chieppa (UFS)**: "Life is pretty good on my side of the world. In my Abe year you wrapped up your trip in the northern hemisphere by going to Barcelona. Little did both of us know that I would be living in that very same city only a couple of years later! Nonetheless I am back in SA for the time being. Now that I am jet-setting quite a bit, I would prefer to receive the newsletter via email please. All the best." Great fulfillment to each of you in these interesting work places.

**Garreth Bloor (UCT 2009)**: "This morning I opened my letter with the latest Address list. Work has been a busy time for me, but I have sought to maintain something of an intellectual life, keeping some academic pursuits in my spare time. I find it intrinsically rewarding and it helps me maintain perspective. I write several papers each year and serve on the council and university research committee at UCT. After the elections I was appointed to Tourism, Events and Marketing, a move I am very happy with. I will also be taking on Economic Development to form a directorate committed to ensure we stand as a business, pleasure and lifestyle destination of note on the global map. The decision to remain in the City, instead of heading to Parliament, was based on my fulfillment serving in a local government where one can partake in making tangible reforms, as opposed to simply playing an opposition role nationally. We look forward to the Farewell dinner later this year." As we do, too, to seeing you again.

**Abrie Marais (UFS 2010)**, who joined us at the Farewell dinner last year, wrote: "Thanks for the Newsletter. I truly enjoy reading what everyone is up to and seeing who the new bursars are. It was really good seeing you at the dinner in November. In January I finally made the permanent move to Cape Town. I am shifting between seeing public sector patients in the morning at Karl Bremer Hospital, and working in a very up-market private practice in the Gardens in the afternoons." Also at the dinner was **Neetasha Singh (DUT 2010)**: "I've finally got my own TV show called East n Style on DSTV 406. I produce and present on this show. I've also represented SA and Modeled at Africa Fashion Week in London this year. I know I'm a graduate in Accounting, but I'm following my passion. I am now set to leave to India in August to study Acting."

**Cherese Thakur (UKZN 2010)**: "Last year I was happy to be working at the Constitutional Court with **Khomotso Moshikaro (UP 2011)**, a former Abe and then a Rhodes Scholar, who left for his own adventures in Oxford. I had such a good time sharing Abe

stories with him." **Khomotso**, in turn, wrote: *"I have just finished reading the Abe Newsletter and was so moved by all the extraordinary anecdotes and updates from Fellows that I feel compelled to send my own. I was so inspired by my Abe trip that I decided to read for a Masters in Law in Oxford as a 2013 Rhodes Scholar. I am so grateful to the Trust for enticing me out of my comfort zone. I feel as if a portion of whatever success I achieve in life will always be owed to the Trust. I hope that all fellow Abes never lose sight of the exceptional opportunity we all received to challenge our assumptions whilst creating powerful, lifelong memories."* Well spoken, Khomotso. He, **Rachel Morrow (UKZN 2011)** and **Kameel Premhid (UKZN 2012)**, scholarship students at Oxford, and **Sarvesh Balkaran (UCT 2012)** who was doing a short course there, joined the 2013 Abes for dinner at The Randolph Hotel when we hosted South African Rhodes Scholars. What a splendid and lively evening!

**Charmika Samaradiwakera (Wits 2011)** is now a Research and Teaching Associate at the University of the Witwatersrand. **Ryan Lamb (UFS 2011)** shared exciting news: *"In January I started a new job as a Medical Physicist (Radiation Oncology) in Pretoria at Little Company of Mary Hospital...In February I received admission to University College London to pursue an MSc in Physics and Engineering in Medicine from September, and a Skye Foundation scholarship to make this possible. It's a dream come true to go to one of the best universities in the world! I have also been accepted to stay at Goodenough College, so shall meet the 2014 Abes when they arrive in November."* Congratulations, Ryan, on these splendid achievements. We look forward very keenly to seeing you at Goodenough. Also thrilling news from **Jess Standish-White (UCT 2012)**: *"I have been accepted at Oxford to do an MSc in Economics for Development starting in September 2014. An absolute dream come true!"* Wonderful to share in these dreams that are being realised, and to anticipate meeting you in Oxford with the 2014 Abes.

**Kameel Premhid (UKZN 2012)**, a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, has kept us up-to-date with regular newsletters about the kaleidoscopic experiences he has enjoyed. *"Meeting fellow Abes is always a wonderful experience. My time at Oxford has been rewarding in many ways, chief among them that we have a significant number of old Abes at Oxford. What is also quite special is when another old Abe of another generation gets to speak and as an Abe you get to make a connection. This was my experience with FW de Klerk (Potchefstroom 1958) who was recently at the Oxford Union to speak on Nelson Mandela's Long Walk to a new South Africa. Sporting my Abe Bailey tie, which the former President was quick to spot, we managed to exchange a few thoughts on his speech and he was very happy that Abes continue their presence at Oxford and other institutions of learning in the United Kingdom."* In his most recent letter he writes: *"I have chosen to swap from an MPhil in International Relations to an MSc in Education (Higher Education Policy). My Oxford education, to my mind, should capacitate me to being a maker of decisions. Not an analyser of decisions that other people take. This degree will help me to go some way to achieve that: to feel as if I am learning things that will help me make an impact in a life of public service."* Thank you for regular news. You will meet the new Abes when we visit Oxford in December.

Fascinating news from **Roné McFarlane (US 2012)**: *"I am delighted to let you know that I have been selected for a Commonwealth Scholarship to read for a Master's in International and Comparative Education at Oxford. And I have been accepted at Green Templeton College. I am really indebted to you and the Abe Bailey Trust as I would never even have considered the possibility of going there if it was not for the Abe Bailey tour. Thank you so much for exposing us to these opportunities. This also means that I'll be in Oxford at the end of the year when you guys go through there. Would love to meet the new Abes."* Further good news from **Lukhona Mnguni (UKZN 2012)**: *"I am taking up the Commonwealth Scholarship in the University of Edinburgh... when we were there last year we did not meet up with academics and I will try and see if I can facilitate some sort of meet and greet with some South African academics now based in Edinburgh."* Congratulations Roné and Lukhona — we are proud of you and very happy that you will have these opportunities. We hope that the new Abes will meet both of you during their tour.

From **Jordan Griffiths (UP 2012)**: *"I am currently doing my master's degree in Security Studies at the University of Pretoria. I have also just signed on as a risk consultant for G4 Security, the biggest security operator on the continent. However, possibly the most interesting thing is that I won another travel scholarship. The embassy of Azerbaijan runs an essay competition which I entered...I am one of the winners and will be travelling there for 2 weeks. Very excited."* Well done, Jordan — should be a fascinating adventure.

## 8 ABE BAILEY TRUSTEE JUDGE JAN STEYN

We pay tribute to Judge Steyn, a long-serving Trustee, who took a keen interest in the Travel Bursary Programme and the selection of bursars each year. He passed away in December 2013. Although then in a wheelchair, he honoured the Fellowship and the 2013 bursars by attending the Farewell Dinner at the end of November.

*"Jan Steyn was a passionate advocate for justice and equality in South Africa and served South Africa and several countries in the highest capacity in the fields of law and development. In recognition of his service he was awarded honorary doctorates from five South African universities. Steyn served as a judge in the Cape High Court and was president of the Appeal Court of Lesotho, and served on the Courts of Appeal of Botswana and Swaziland."* [Times Live]

Abe **FW De Klerk (Potchefstroom 1958)** was quoted in the Mail & Guardian: *"Former high court judge Jan Hendrik Steyn helped create a fair legal system and promoted the Constitution...Steyn made a significant and exemplary contribution to the development of a legal system based on equality before the law and the right of everyone to basic justice. He said Steyn had been*



a long-standing and dear friend to him and his wife, Elita.”

## 9 GOODBYE TO THE 2014 ABES: Wednesday 26th November 2014

Join us at the *ATLANTIC IMBIZO*, the venue in the Cape Town Waterfront to give the new Abes a good send-off this year. NOTE that this takes place on the WEDNESDAY this year, instead of the usual Thursday. An invitation to the Farewell Dinner with all the relevant details, directions and free parking information is enclosed with this Newsletter if you live in or near to Cape Town. If you live further afield but can arrange to be at the dinner, please contact me and I shall send an invitation to you-see my contact details below. We would be delighted to enjoy your company.

A special invitation is given to last year's bursars to share in the send-off to their successors, and to the Abes of 1964 to mark the 50th anniversary of their tour by attending the dinner as a group.

Please let me know if you and your partner will attend so that we can make accurate catering arrangements, preferably by e-mail, or by way of the enclosed reply slip.

## 10 ABE CONTACT DETAILS

A number of Old Abes with whom we had lost contact have been traced by fellow Abes or have reconnected with the Fellowship. Good to welcome you back! If you know details of any bursars listed as '*unknown*' in the March 2014 official address list, please send them to me. Let me know of any changes in your own e-mail or postal details.

## 11 FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTERS BY EMAIL

There were over 80 Abes who responded to Mrs Morag Naylor's request sent with the Address List in March, to receive Newsletters by email in place of posted hard copies. This Newsletter has been sent to them electronically.

**How about YOU?** Please send me a quick email if you are willing to receive future Newsletters/Address Lists by email.

## 12 THANK YOU!

- ❁ To those who sent in news and contact up-dates
- ❁ To those who have agreed to receive Fellowship Newsletters by email
- ❁ To **Brian Robinson and fellow Abe Bailey Trustees** for all that they do to maintain the annual bursary award programme
- ❁ To **Morag Naylor** for the work she does to ensure that the tour runs smoothly, for accompanying the 2013 tour and for making such a positive contribution to the interactions during the tour
- ❁ To **Andrew Ritchie, Roger Llewellyn, David Turner and their colleagues** who co-ordinate arrangements in the UK and welcome each year's group of Abe Bailey Bursars so warmly in London and in Scotland.
- ❁ To **Naomi Schulke**, Director Ritchies's new P.A., who has assumed the role of co-ordinating the tour arrangements in the UK so quickly and thoroughly.

Warm greetings and good wishes to you all

*JOHN GIBBON*  
SECRETARY/ORGANISER

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