



Warm greetings to all Abe Bailey Fellows around the world. It is a real pleasure to be in touch with you again, and to share news about bursars new and old.

1 THE ABES OF 2024

Congratulations to the new Abe Bailey Bursars whom we welcome into our Fellowship of nearly 1000 Fellows. From 21 of the 25 residential universities, 61 nominations were submitted to the Trust, who selected 16 Travel Bursars from 16 different universities. They are:

Abdel-Hakeem Mohamed - UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE

Hakeem is from Cape Town. An MA candidate in Development Studies, he has a strong interest in international relations and foreign affairs. He has travelled to six countries within the past twelve months and seen the importance of diversity and mutual exchange. His hobbies include playing football, going to the gym and reading philosophy.



Abigail van den Berg - CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Abigail is a student radiographer eager to learn and broaden her horizons. In her spare time she finds interest in photography, gardening and baking. She strives to offer kindness and compassion to everyone within the health care system as well as in her everyday life. She believes in showing the goodness of humanity to everyone with whom she may cross paths, no matter their cultural or ethnic background.

Alrinah Makgatha - VAAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Alrinah grew up in a peaceful rural area, filled with the sounds of birds singing and laughter of siblings. She moved to Gauteng, a transition that opened new opportunities and experiences. Studying Internal Auditing, she is dedicated to understanding the complexity of finance and ensuring organisational integrity. Her journey from a rural to an urban area has shaped her resilience and ambition, driving her towards excellence.



Avelile Cishe - NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY

Avelile is an MSc in Forestry candidate, having gained a Diploma and Advanced Diploma both in Forestry (cum laude), and a BSc. (Hons) in Natural Resource Management (cum laude). He was born in Willowvale, Eastern Cape. He is a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society and South African Forestry Institute. Avelile is passionate about forestry and environmental science research and lecturing.

Divesh Singaram - UNIVERSITY OF KWA-ZULU NATAL

Divesh has an incredible curiosity for life. Growing up in Durban, he always had a passion for helping others, which steered him toward a career in medicine. This allows him to help people and explore the intricate art form of the human body. With his entrepreneurial spirit, he moved from selling pet fish online to creating a motivation-boosting app. He loves sports, especially squash. He is excited about what life has to offer.



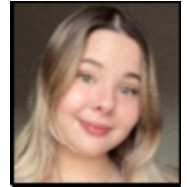


Ila Alberts - UNIVERSITY OF STELLENBOSCH

Ila is a passionate postgraduate LLB student with a heart for people, politics, and progress. She served as Junior Mayor of Cape Town, and has been active in student leadership organisations while completing her BA(Law) (cum laude) with a double-major in Political Science and German Literature. An alumna of the IPS Afrika 2024 Programme at the German Bundestag, she loves to expand her horizons through language learning.

Jesse Steyn - UNIVERSITY OF MPUMULANGA

Since she was young, Jesse was fond of reading and learning. School holidays were filled with walks to and from the library carrying books that she would eagerly read. She carried her love for learning through to tertiary education and is currently completing her Master's in Psychology. She enjoys life the most when connecting with others, learning new things and keeping her hands busy, with crafting, cooking or writing.



Kamogelo Mabe - UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

After a B.Ed. degree, Kamogelo read for an Honours Degree in Critical Diversity Studies. His focus is on promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion. He leads Green Campus Initiatives to enhance student involvement in environmental sustainability. Strongly committed to the community, he co-founded the Mzansi Youth Enrichment Foundation, to provide skills development and advancement learning programmes.

Kay-Leigh van Rooyen - UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE

Kay-Leigh is studying her Master's in Business Management. She grew up in a small town in the Northern Cape with an identical twin sister. Her family fostered her love for business. Valuing relationships and experiences over material things, her goal in life is to leave the world a better place, even if it's just her piece of the world! She is an outgoing person who loves a good laugh, and is a qualified barista who always seeks out the best coffee.



Milisa Chiliza - CAPE PENINSULA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Milisa is a 3rd-year Visual Communication Design student from the South Coast of KZN, who moved to Cape Town to overcome her fears and to pursue her ambitions. As a natural leader, she excels at connecting with people and advocating for those who cannot speak for themselves. Her passion lies in helping others achieve their dreams by creating opportunities and bridging gaps between those in need and those with abundance

Nina du Preez - UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Nina is a Master's candidate in Interdisciplinary and Museum Studies who is interested in the post-memory, cultural legacies, climate change, ways of life after oppression as a result of racial inequality, and the response of people to knowledge systems that are not their own. She devotes her time to community outreach projects, working alongside local leaders, to strengthen community infrastructure and to offer holiday youth programmes.



Nombulelo Khuzwayo - UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND

Nombulelo is pursuing a degree in Social Work. Growing up in a small township, she worked hard to achieve her goals. She learned leadership as the firstborn in her generation, as school class representative, as university leader, and church youth captain. Active in public-speaking, she has won awards in speech and drama. Chairperson of the Social Work Student Society, she is also a published author.

Omphile Taele - SOL PLAATJE UNIVERSITY

From Krugersdorp, Omphile developed a deep love for nature, hiking and adventure. This led to a degree in Archaeology and now an Honours degree. The Projects Manager of the University's Heritage and Archaeology Society, she is also part of initiatives such as SisBro's Keeper, that contribute to tackling social issues. She is a people's person who loves reading and painting.





Oyama Mzayidume - RHODES UNIVERSITY

Oyama is an LLB student who is deeply interested in the intersection between law and politics, especially as it relates to policy formulation and governance. A keen mootist, she has won the Rhodes internal moot twice and has participated in other moots across the continent. She has sung in a choir at every school she has attended and loves singing. In her spare time she listens to podcasts on current affairs and pop music.

Siphesihle Mchunu - DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Reading for his Master's degree in Health Sciences (Homeopathy), Siphesihle has wide experiences and passions beyond academic endeavours. He is an outgoing person who enjoys interacting with people, and working with people from many cultural backgrounds. Adjusting readily to any situation, he values opportunities to meet a range of new individuals with amazingly diverse mindsets, and to learn from them.



Yikumba Andreas - NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY

Yikumba is pursuing a B.Com.(Hons) in Management Sciences with Marketing Management. He has been placed on the dean's list for academic excellence, graduating with distinction. He has served as Sport Officer, SRC President, and Chairperson of the Potchefstroom Campus, and on the NWU Council and Senate. He is a firm believer in Ubuntu, the African philosophy meaning "I am because you are."

2. NEIL EDDY WRITES ON HOW THE 2024 ABES WERE SELECTED

Again this year a panel of past Abes led by Keith Richardson (tour manager in 2023) and Neil Eddy (incoming tour manager in 2024) held online discussions with prospective Abes who had been nominated by 21 universities across the country. The panel, consisting of past Abes **Rushane Alexander (NWU, 2023)**, **Kumeren Govender (UKZN, 2018)**, **Tevarus Naicker (US, 2018)**, **Kapil Narain (UKZN, 2019)**, **Abongile Nkamisa (WSU 2018)**, **Confidence Ndlovu (UM, 2018)**, **Tuscany Parkin (Rhodes, 2018)**, **Zeenat Patel (UP, 2023)**, **Emma Swart (US, 2023)**, **Tebogo Mphelo (UP, 2018)** and **Luxolo Tomsana (UFH, 2022)**, asked probing questions, hoping to find the best fit for the tour. We were looking for opinions which showed character; commitment to the Abe ideal; curiosity and a desire to keep learning; concern and caring. An enormous thank you to Keith for running the whole interview process and for his wise leading of the discussions. At the end of the process, recommendations were made to the Trust who balanced these against the university recommendations and the candidates' CV's and made the final choice of 16 bursars for 2024.



Some reflections from the new Abes on the process:

The interview process was unique, as it was not a one-on-one formal interview but rather a group-engaging interview. This allowed us to gather an idea of each individual's personality and perspective from various backgrounds and professions. This enabled us to get an insight into what the tour experience will be. (Abigail van den Berg, CUT, 2024)

I soon realised this was unlike any other interview I have done before. I would describe it as a 'merry-go-round'. You stood on the sidelines watching others converse and you had to 'jump' in to enjoy the experience. The risk of not jumping in meant you would not have as much fun as the others who were passing you; while the risk of jumping in meant you could possibly contribute negatively and thus affect your chances of selection. I took the risk of jumping into every topic. (Hakeem Mohamed, UWC, 2024)

It was very interesting as it was more of a discussion in which we gave our opinions on current affairs both in South Africa and the UK. I was super anxious as in that setting there's no right or wrong answer, so you don't know if you answered well. I liked discussing even though I was nervous as now I could get others' perspectives. I got to know what fellow nominees are involved in, which was beautiful. (Omphile Taele, SPU, 2024)

I was very anxious as I was unsure of what to expect, but as soon as I joined the meeting I was welcomed quite warmly with on-the-spot questions. There was a certain comfort that came with the way everything was conducted. It was very

straightforward and professional yet still fun because of the interactions. Meeting the past Abes and hearing their questions gave me some insight into what we might face. **(Milisa Chiliza, CPUT, 2024)**

The interviewer made the conversation feel more like a discussion than an interrogation. I felt comfortable sharing my thoughts and ideas. The process moved at a good pace, with clear communication and timely follow-ups - I never felt left in the dark; the discussion was inclusive. **(Siphesihle Mchunu, DUT, 2024)**

3. THE 2024 TOUR - MANAGER NEIL EDDY GIVES US A PREVIEW

Bursars will spend orientation time in Cape Town, getting to know each other and learning to work and walk together, and thereafter 18 packed days experiencing the culture and thinking of the United Kingdom. Most of our time will be in London, with overnight trips to Oxford and Cambridge, finishing off with the traditional time of reflection at The Burn in Scotland. New places to visit on this year's itinerary include the Turing Institute which deals with policy around AI, the Crick Institute, which focuses on medical research, and the Astra Zeneca research laboratories in Cambridge.

Throughout the tour we will be trying to cast our minds 30 years hence to 2050, the time in which the current Abes will be at the peak of their careers, asking questions about what the future of our lives will look like. Where will technology take us? How will politics change? Will universities still hold relevance as educational institutions? Will society be more or less religious? How will access to physical, emotional and technological spaces have changed for the currently marginalised?

4. DAVID JORDAN

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of David Jordan who has regaled recent Abe groups with the history of London, bringing to vibrant life every building and kerbstone that we passed on our tours of the city. David, formerly a teacher in Cape Town, had already been asked to lead this year's Abes around London, and we will sadly remember him as we wander under the Christmas lights, view the Changing of the Guard from the "right" spot, and float down the Thames on the way to Greenwich. Our sincere condolences go to his family. In the photograph, taken at one of the Greenwich telescopes, *Khanyisile Mahlangu (UCT, 2023)* thanks David for our inspiring day.



5. THIS IS WHAT THE 2023 BURSARS HAD TO SAY ABOUT THEIR TOUR.

RUSHANE ALEXANDER (North-West University)

It became clear that effective leadership involves recognising and appreciating the contributions of others. The tour taught me that I am capable of more than I often limit myself to. Dreams, regardless of their scale, are meant to be lived. From Shakespeare's museum to a rugby stadium, the importance of seizing every opportunity became evident...the journey of self-discovery and personal growth knows no finish line. It is a continuous process of learning, evolving, and embracing new opportunities.

OMPULUSA NEKHUMBE (University of Venda)

Being able to engage with inspirational and ambitious students from diverse fields was an eye-opening experience that not only fostered insightful discussions but also led to lasting friendships. The tour taught me a crucial lesson on the significance of gratitude and humility in leadership...The Abe Bailey tour was a remarkable experience that not only expanded my knowledge and worldview but also gave me a sense of purpose and a renewed determination to make a difference in the world.

KWANELE DAVIDSON (University of Zululand)

From the tour one of my takeaways is to always have an open mind when interacting with people because ideologies always differ and listening to understand, creates grounds for mutual understanding...The solutions that SA desperately needs are in the uncomfortable conversations and we need to start having those conversations. It is our responsibility as

young leaders to effect change based on our education and experiences obtained along the way, such as the Abe Bailey travel bursary.

EMMA SWART (University of Stellenbosch)

I found the British way of memorialisation of the past and history-keeping most intriguing. Entrenched in their society is a deep sense of pride for what has been, while looking towards what will come. An entwinement of the old, such as historical architecture, and the new, much like the King's Cross development, speaks to the British way of longevity and modernity...Nestled between meetings with people I could only dream of engaging with, and experiences beyond the scope of my imagination, were my favourite parts: the growth of the young leaders I toured with.

MULALO DZIALWA (University of Fort Hare)

My journey through the United Kingdom and Scotland has been transformative, akin to filling a pot with the essential ingredients of personal growth, confidence, cultural sensitivity, and adaptability to globalisation. This immersive experience has provided me with infinite opportunities for networking and has broadened my horizons in ways I could never have anticipated. This newfound awareness has not only enriched my understanding of others but also instilled a deeper sense of empathy. I want to know more of our own history.

ZAMA ZULU (University of the Free State)

I am leaving grateful which I feel is an understatement of how thankful I truly am. I am leaving much more humble and displaying humanity. I am leaving excited to implement all the skills I learnt, in my daily life and the lives of others. I am leaving with an inquisitive mind that wants to know what the world at large has to offer, what South Africa can learn from other countries but mostly what South Africans can teach other nations.



KHANYISILE MAHLANGU (University of Cape Town)

London exceeded my expectations. Each day became a profound journey, whether admiring the breathtaking architectural marvels or unravelling the layers of its rich historical tapestry. A standout among these experiences was the guided tour of London with Mr David Jordan. His passionate narration of London's story became a powerful inspiration. The tour has been transformative; it has allowed me to dream and be filled with experiences and encounters that have profoundly enriched my perspective and inspired me to pursue my goals with unprecedented vigour.

TOKISO MAMABOLO (University of Limpopo)

As I conclude this transformative journey, I do so with a heart full of gratitude, a mind at peace, and a sense of personal evolution. Reflecting on the person I was prior to the travel bursary, I recognise a significant shift in my demeanor. The self-doubt that once characterised my approach has been replaced with a newfound sense of self-assurance. This tour has empowered me to embrace my authentic self and has instilled in me the confidence to express my thoughts and ideas openly.

EBRAHIM MOOLA (Wits University)

As I reflect on my time in the UK, the overarching lesson I am taking away is the profound impact of diverse experiences on personal development. The exposure to different perspectives, coupled with the opportunity to witness effective leadership, has left an indelible mark on my thinking. Spending time with fellow Abe students has been an invaluable aspect of this journey. Every moment shared, whether filled with laughter, tears, or disagreements, contributed to personal growth. Thank you for making this transformative experience possible.

GEORGE TEMBA (Tshwane University of Technology)

We must start by having conversations with ourselves first on how to evolve into morally and ethically conscious individuals who prioritise caring for others over the things of the world and how they will make us look better than other people...to contribute to a better world, our personal growth and commitment to genuine care for people must come first before our aspirations for global change...it is important to know our history really well which means not just knowing where we come from but recognising, keeping safe, and commemorating our shared story.

DAGAN NAESAR (Rhodes University)

The absolute highlight of the tour was the "in-between" times and spaces...when a group of us were walking from our visit at Tate Modern across Millennium Bridge. There was not a breath of wind or cloud in the sky. We saw the beautiful St. Paul's Cathedral lit up and all the city lights reflecting on the Thames. This moment was very special to me...countless other times, such as discussions on buses or sidewalks. Getting to know my fellow Abes or singing songs in the morning in a parking lot... Trusting these individuals, once strangers but now friends and family, has been a life changing experience.



**Liso Potwana, Rushane Alexander, Dagan Naeser, Tisetso Khumalo, Kwanele Davidson
Khanyisile Mahlangu, Ebrahim Moola, Marizel Handriks, Omphulusa Nekhumbe, Zeenat Patel, Zama Zulu
Emma Swart, Qasin Osman, Neil Eddy, Mulalo Dzialwa, Keith Richardson, George Temba, Tokiso Mamabolo**

ZEEENAT PATEL (University of Pretoria)

The experiences that allowed us to fully immerse ourselves and participate in new activities such as the caelidh and curling were highly enjoyable as they not only taught me things that I would be unlikely to be exposed to at home but also challenged the group to work together...both culturally enriching and developing our interpersonal skills and relationships. The tour has given me a sense that I can live so much 'bigger' than I have before...given me the confidence to challenge what I previously thought were my limitations.

LISO POTWANA (University of Kwa-Zulu Natal)

The story of our journey would not be complete without a reflection on the challenges. The hard work never stopped. Early mornings and late nights reading our research to prepare for the following day, our DODO day, hosts, guests and the very long walks - made us stronger. So even when having fun, challenges are always there to enable us to make the most of our journey. A visit was always preceded and succeeded by discussions which challenged so many of my views and made me confront inherent biases. My fellow 2023 Abes inspired me to become a better person.

QASIM OSMAN (Nelson Mandela University)

I have experienced the power of exchanging views but also the mindset of shifting my own views. I learnt to appreciate different cultures and perspectives. We got the opportunity to share a room with different Abes at each point on the tour and through this I learnt so much about being mindful of people's cultures and practices. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to have experienced such an amazing and life-changing tour and I look forward to building on the connections I made during the tour in the years to come.

TISETSO KHUMALO (University of Johannesburg)

This tour has truly transformed me. The friendships I made, the people I had the privilege to meet, the places I was able to

visit, the speakers I was blessed to listen to, and the discussions I was able to engage in...taught me that you will never know until you ask. I was pushed beyond my comfort zone countless times, even if I sometimes felt my questions were irrelevant. We were encouraged to ask questions, and a culture of inclusivity and participation was created. My confidence was hugely boosted by this. I have taken these life-changing lessons with me.

MARIZEL HENDRIKS (Durban University of Technology)

This once-in-a-lifetime experience pushed me beyond many mental boundaries. New dreams that I never would have considered if it wasn't for the eye-opening experience of my profession as implemented by another country and culture. This tour has given me so much more than the ability to travel internationally for the first time in my life. It has challenged my thinking, my goals and my character. I will always be grateful for the opportunity presented to me.

7. CHANGES AT THE BURN



After hosting some ten Abe tours at The Burn in Scotland, David Turner moved on as Bursar in March this year. The Fellowship thanked him for very happy times enjoyed by well over 100 Abe bursars during these years, and wished him well for the future. He replied as follows: *"So, that's it, 12.5 years gone in a flash! It will be very strange to leave all this behind. Extracting myself is proving more difficult than I had appreciated as there is so much of me in all that The Burn does. I am looking forward to having more control over my time but I will miss The Burn and my association with the Abe Bailey Tour. It has been uplifting to work with you and to meet so many Abe Bailey Scholars. I feel blessed to have been given this opportunity and will take away many happy memories from my time at The Burn. The new Burn Bursar will be Janet Wallwork-Clarke."*

The 2024 bursars will be the first Abe group to meet her and to enjoy The Burn's hospitality under her leadership. A brief pen picture of the new bursar and some information about her responsibilities will not only interest Old Abes but probably stir wonderful tour memories from that halcyon environment:

As Bursar, Jan Clarke is responsible for all aspects of running Goodenough College's Scottish estate and leads the team in developing a sustainable business offering a retreat for academics and students and a holiday venue to visitors, including the annual contingent of Abe Bailey Travel Bursars from South Africa. All guests enjoy high standards of hospitality and access to a beautiful unspoilt landscape. Jan has a wealth of experience of senior leadership in estate management, heritage and conservation. Her career has taken her across the UK as CEO of charitable trusts protecting historic buildings, gardens and landscapes. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Sunderland University and studied practical conservation at the Buildings Craft College in London and holds a Postgraduate Certificate in Historic Environment Conservation. Her interests include nature conservation, photography and creative writing.



8. NEWS FROM THE 1974 ABES ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR TOUR - THE "HALF-CENTURIANS"

INUS AUCAMP (OFS)



In good health, happy/fortunate and contented, I am married to Esmé and we are blessed with four dear children and nine wonderful grandchildren. We retired in Bloemfontein, but enjoy frequent visits to our farm in the Stormberge, with one of my sons farming there. The farm has been a treasure in our family's possession for nearly 200 years. I was in the teaching profession for a few years, after which I entered active politics and became leader of the NP in the Free State.

I completed a doctoral thesis and a book on the politics at the time. Our group acted as a unity with mutual concern and no trace of tension - really top class, balanced ambassadors!

I cherish most pleasant memories of our 1974 tour and always consider it as one of the highlights of my life.

What memories! The farewell in Cape Town, the boat trip to Southampton on the Edinburgh Castle, our stay in London House, the formidable and legendary tour guide, Maj. Batcock, the exposure to the history, culture, architecture, politics and sport of Great Britain, her people and the "broader world". Everywhere we were treated as guests of honour. The tour broadened my view and life! Wat 'n onvergeetlike voorreg! Weereens baie, baie dankie!

PIETER MULDER (PUCHE)



I truly enjoyed and learnt a lot during my Abe Bailey tour in 1974. The 14-day sea voyage from Cape Town to Southampton gave us enough time to get to know one another before the British leg of our tour. Our British tour guide, Major Batcock, impressed me with not only his knowledge and insight, but also his manner of sharing and presenting his insights. Of particular interest were British politics of the time, a visit to the British parliament, and an IRA bomb every night at 21:00 in London. Apart from the members of the 1974 tour group that later went into academics, there were also 3 bursars who were elected as members of parliament. I went into academia for 15 years at Potchefstroom University for CHE, as a lecturer and professor and later as the head of the department for Communication Studies. I completed my doctoral studies, and furthered my studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in the USA. After leaving university I served as a member of parliament as part of the opposition for almost 30 years, 15 of which I served as leader of my party, and a term as deputy minister. After my retirement I am a radio political commentator, and frequently contribute to a newspaper column on current events and trends. I completed my registration as an historical tour guide and still hope to be half as good as Major Batcock! Married to Triena for 50 years, we have 5 children (two of whom were also Abe Bailey bursars - Heleen and Suzanne) and 13 grandchildren, all still in South Africa.

KIT VAUGHAN (RHODES)



Following the Abe Bailey tour of 1974, I earned an honours degree in physics and applied mathematics from Rhodes University before pursuing a PhD in musculoskeletal biomechanics at the University of Iowa. Thereafter I was awarded a post-doctoral fellowship in orthopaedic engineering at Oxford University before spending a decade in the USA, finishing off as professor of biomedical engineering at the University of Virginia. Following South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994, my family and I returned to Cape Town where I accepted the Hyman Goldberg Chair in Biomedical Engineering at UCT. After 14 years, during which period I established the Medical Imaging Research Unit, I took early retirement to launch a spinout company called CapeRay. We developed a novel system, containing both X-rays and ultrasound, for the early detection of breast cancer. The CapeRay assets have recently been acquired by an international consortium and I will serve as the CEO of TomoSwiss. As I reflect on my career over the past 50 years, the major impact of the Abe Bailey tour was that it kindled a fascination with history - a subject I had not studied for matric - and the person responsible was our tour leader, Major Batcock. This influence inspired me to write two books: (1) an award-winning biography entitled *Imagining the Elephant*, a biography of Allan Cormack, Nobel Laureate in Medicine for the development of the computer tomography scanner; and (2) a history of South Africa's academic rating system, entitled *On the Shoulders of Oldenburg*.

JO MICHAEL (WITS)



The Abe Bailey tour provided a welcome and eye-opening break from my PhD research at Wits. After completing the degree in 1975 while simultaneously holding an *ad hominem* lectureship in the Department of Chemistry, I was fortunate enough to obtain a post-doctoral research position in Cambridge. I spent the next two years soaking up English culture (and often meeting up with my Abe yearmate Mark Hockly, who was studying in Oxford). A lectureship in the Wits Chemistry Department happened to be advertised unexpectedly near the end of my post-doc time so, with family ties calling me back home, I applied for the post, to which I was appointed in January 1978. And at Wits I have spent the rest of my career! I rose through the ranks, ultimately being appointed as Chair Professor of Organic Chemistry in 1994. A perk of academic positions is the opportunity to spend research time abroad on sabbatical leave: 1984 was spent at the University of California, Berkeley, and parts of 1991-1992 at the University of Nottingham. My activities in chemistry over the years resulted in election to Fellowships of the UK's *Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC)*, the *Royal Society of South Africa (FRSSA)* and the *South African Chemical Institute*. The greatest accolade was the award of the Institute's Gold Medal in 2001 for 'contributions in the field of organic synthesis and achievements and service rendered to the chemical community'. Circumstances saw me being forced into the Headship of the School of Chemistry in 2008, a five-year 'sentence' that meant less science and more administration. My final two years before compulsory retirement at the end of 2014 came as a relief! I am now a Professor Emeritus, though I still do some administration for the School of Chemistry. My major research activity since retirement has been the writing of commissioned book chapters for international publishing houses on specialist topics in organic chemistry. On a personal note, I have never married, and I have no children. This is made up for by a clutch of nieces and nephews, both local and in the UK, and by a growing horde of great-nieces and great-nephews.

MARK HOCKLY (UPE)



My tour was a very significant and formative event in my young life. At least partly influenced by the tour I subsequently moved to England in 1976 for further studies at Oxford University and have remained in England ever since, marrying an English fellow student and spending most of my working life at British Telecom. In relation to Oxford, I recall a very awkward moment during the Abes Tour when we were supposed to be welcomed by the Warden of Wadham College, Oxford. The arrangement had presumably been concluded with the previous incumbent and the newly installed Warden, Stuart Hampshire, a philosopher with left-wing political views, was clearly not happy offering hospitality to this all-male, all-white group of students from apartheid South Africa! Of course it was soon after our tour that the eligibility criteria for the Travel Scholarships were changed. On the Scottish part of our tour, Inus Aucamp and I were privileged to be hosted on a very cold and wet January day at Arniston House near Edinburgh, a very grand but at that time dilapidated stately home of the very distinguished Dundas family. Our hosts were Althea Dundas, who had inherited the property, and her South African husband Adriaan Bekker. I recently was able to visit Arniston House, which is open to the public after extensive restoration, and enjoyed being able to reminisce with Althea and her daughter about my visit all those years ago.



9. SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES

We pay tribute to these Fellows who have passed away: **Judge Lionel Melunsky (RHODES 1955)**, **Philip van der Merwe (UCT 1969)**, **Ayesha Toyer (CPUT 2010)** and **Wynand Wagener (OFS 1991)**. If you are aware of other Abes who have died, please let me know.

10. NEWS FROM ABES AROUND THE GLOBE

ROB PARKER (UN 1959), from the first decade of the Travel Bursary Programme, wrote: *"You astound me year after year with the Newsletter you produce and the 2023 one in particular, which is a bumper edition. Reading the resumes of the 2023 Bursars was most inspiring; what an amazing group they are. I am still living in Johannesburg and am in good health and currently working in a consulting engineering practice, fortunately only as an employee and companion of the main partner and not running my own practice any longer."*



News from **RICHARD GOLDSTONE (WITS 1960)**: *"Thank you for the excellent newsletter. I have thoroughly enjoyed reading it. We are so fortunate to be part of this outstanding endeavour. And, as always, thank you for the crucial role that you continue to play. Apart from other activities, I am presently very busy as Vice-Chair of Integrity Initiatives International (>integrityinitiatives.org<) which, amongst other anti-corruption activities, is campaigning for an International Anti-Corruption Court (IACC). We recently held the first inperson meeting of the IACC Treaty Committee in Hamburg."*

Its task is to draft a model treaty for consideration by governments as well as civil society."

NEIL CALLIE (WITS 1962) was in touch: *"Thank you, as always, for the Abe update -- your reliable management of the whole Abe infrastructure is so appreciated by all of us 'Old Boys'. Gail and I have now retired to a lovely Retirement Village in Hobart, Tasmania. I am always interested in the annual Abe newsletter -- it reminds me of my exceptional experience many years ago, and it represents an encouragement for the future of South Africa, being such a much-needed and vital amalgam of our population profile ...and hopefully young leaders for the future."* From **MIKE RAATH (RHODES 1963)** *"Thank you for the Abes' Contact list. Another change to make to the 1963 team -- sadly, I see that **Dr Dawie de Villiers (US 1963)** died last year. I don't know about the other surviving members of our group -- we're all getting on a bit!"* **HERSCHEL FLAX (UCT 1964)** who lives in New York, reported: *"After all the travails of Covid, ongoing world upheavals, etc., my wife Elana and I planned a trip to SA, based mainly in Cape Town. I'm happy to report that **John Frye (Rhodes 1964)** and I, together with our wives, had an extremely warm and pleasant get-together at their home in Fish Hoek some months ago."* **BOET COETZEE (UN 1967)**: *"Bets and I are still in the Strand where I keep myself busy with my two professional interests: Health and Safety in the manufacture of explosives; and Leadership development. Besides keeping abreast with the literature, I also have occasion to do the odd presentation on explosives safety. Enough to keep me out of mischief! Many thanks for the work you are still doing on behalf of the Fellowship."* **DON GIBBON (RHODES 1968)**: *"Thank you for the unfailingly informative and detailed newsletter."* **BEN DE KLERK (PUCHO 1968)** sent word: *"I am a retired professor in Practical Theology. I live in Potchefstroom."*



Also from the same tour, **ROGER CRAWFORD (UN 1968)**: *"Following my formal retirement some ten years ago I have remained active. I serve as a vice-president of the council of the SA Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR), the country's oldest and widely respected 'think-tank.' In addition, I chair the board of the Institute. St. Andrew's School in Bloemfontein is a focus of mine as a member of the school's governing body. Gail and I live between Johannesburg (summer) and the KZN north coast (winter)."*

NIGEL DESEBROCK (UCT 1969) wrote: *"Having finally closed our small company, Brigida and I were told we had to change our company-related email address. Thank you for all you have done, and so wonderfully well, over so many years. Sad news about the passing last week of Philip van der Merwe."*

From **JASPER STEYN (UP1972)**: *"Thank you very much for your email and for the valuable information. Prof Dr V E D'Assonville (PUCHO 1952) passed away. Over the years I occasionally had the opportunity to attend some of his sermons and I was always impressed by his preaching ability. I also had the privilege to meet him and his wife at their home some 8 years ago when I wanted to buy one of his history books. It was great to experience his intellect and his kindness and the dedicated support of his wife personally."* **DIRK KEMP (UCT 1976)** related: *"We were in the UK in December, including some time in and around London. It had occurred to me to look up the London House / William Goodenough House establishments in Mecklenburgh Square for old times' sake."* From **IZAK SMUTS (RHODES 1978)**: *"You are a giant. No thanks can truly reflect our appreciation of your commitment to an endeavour to build a greater South Africa. My humble thanks are all I can offer."* **MAX PRICE (WITS 1978)** wrote: *"Thanks for your continued sterling stewardship of the AB community. I have moved from Sea Point to Johannesburg."*

PIET NAUDE (US 1981) wrote from Portugal: *"With sincere appreciation, John! Good to read through the list and see how incredibly well bursars did later in life."*

DAVID JAMMY (WITS 1990) from the USA: *"Greetings from Los Angeles where I have been living for the past 10 years. A brief note to say thanks for this newsletter - despite living on the other side of the world, I love getting it and reading it is always accompanied by a warm wash of nostalgia and a sense of connection."* Unhappy news from **CHRIS BOSCH (RAU 1991)**: *"Looking at the list I regret to inform you that **Wynand Wagener** from our 1991 cohort was tragically killed in a car accident with his wife in September 2021."* Commenting on a fellow Abe who visited London House, **ANDRE VAN DER SPUY (US 1993)** remarked: *"I have not been to Goodenough College in a while, having spent three wonderful years there, including captaining the rugby team!"* **HERMANN WESSELS (UCT 1994)** wrote: *"Without fail, at this time I think back to our own departure on tour, which turned out to be such a profound experience."* On social media I noticed that **MATHIPA POOPEDI (UWC 1994)** started a new position as Centre Manager at Kutlwanong Centre for Maths, Science & Technology.

Likewise I saw that **WENDY MCCALLUM (NMU 2003)** is a Climate & Sustainability Lecturer at the University of Edinburgh Business School. **HELEN HACKSLEY (RHODES 2005)** enjoyed the last Farewell Dinner: *"How lovely to read of the new Abes, your dynamic new interview process and to receive your interesting newsletter. Last year was a highlight for me to be able to come again to the dinner and I greatly look forward to the next."* Details of the 2024 Farewell are enclosed with this

Newsletter. From the UK, **HEIN VISSER (NMU 2009)**: "I'm based in London but recently finished up at Weil, Gotshal and Manges after over 10 years. I'll start at my new firm Paul, Weiss in mid- September, continuing to practise private equity, mergers and acquisitions."

Congratulations to **MUEDANYI RAMANTSWANA (NMU 2011)**: "I acquired my PhD in Forest Science in 2020 and am currently working at the Nelson Mandela University, based in George." Likewise to **EUGENE DAVIDS (UWC 2011)** who now is the Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Pretoria. From **KAMEEL PREMHIID (UKZN 2012)**: "Once again, thank you so much for the newsletter and information...my enthusiastic reception of your missives always brings home to me how special it is to belong to a diverse, growing, and inspiring community like ours. My very best to you, the outgoing and new Tour Managers, and all others who work so hard to keep the Bursary going year after year." "So happy to see you're still working with the Abes. My location is now Hong Kong but my email address remains the same," wrote **ALICE SCOTT (CPUT 2014)**. "My partner got headhunted for a job here so I joined him. I am busy doing a post-doc with Wits University and Leeds University" came from **PALESA NQAMBAZA (UJ 2015)**. **KEATON HARRIS (2015 UWC)** from the same tour group, wrote: "I thought I would just send in a personal update regarding my own contact details. My title has now officially changed to 'Dr' and I have moved from Strand to Zonnebloem in Cape Town where I am going to be for quite some time!" "Thank you for the update on all the wonderful things about the Abe Bailey Trust and its people," wrote **ABONGILE NKAMISA (WSU 2018)**. From **MUANO NEMAVHIDI (VENDA 2019)**: "I have transitioned from being a law researcher, an article clerk, and now to an attorney." **KAPIL NARAIN (UKZN 2019)** wrote: "I'm still at Oxford. I'll be starting my DPhil in Clinical Medicine in October. I am also serving as the Vice-President of the Oxford Africa Society (AfroSoc)."

From further afield: "Thank you for the updated Contact list. My details have changed and I now live in Busan, South Korea and will be for the foreseeable future." **JESSE FERGUSON (RHODES 2022)**.

HUMAIRAA MOOSA (UKZN 2022) has been named as one of the 2024 cohort of 10 Rhodes Scholars-elect from the Southern African constituency (South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia and eSwatini). She will pursue an MSc in Sustainability, Enterprise and the Environment, as well as an MSc in Education (Digital and Social Change) at Oxford. Congratulations, Humairaa.



12. AN HISTORICAL SNIPPET SENT IN BY ROELF ALBERTS (UFS 1995)

"Sir Abe Bailey, a prominent South African politician and mine magnate, married Mary Westenra on 5th September, 1911, and together they settled in Johannesburg. Lady Mary Bailey, as she was later known, received her pilot's certificate in 1926, and in 1927 she set a world altitude record for a light aircraft, by reaching a height of 18,000 ft. She was also the first woman to fly across the Irish Sea. Her most famous achievement was a solo flight from London to the Cape and back in 1928. Her return journey included many stops, but she was the first pilot to complete the outward and inwards journey solo. In 1928 she received a trophy from the International Aviation League, for champion aviatrix of the world. In 1930, she was awarded a DBE (Dame of the British Empire) for her aviation achievements". Thanks, Roelf.



13. FAREWELL DINNER FOR 2024 ABES

An invitation to the Farewell dinner in Cape Town to be held on **Thursday 28th November** to which all Fellows and their partners are invited, is included with this Newsletter, containing relevant details. Please reply in good time as acceptances in order of receipt will be limited to the capacity of the venue.

Here is an amusing anecdote from **JAPIE ENGELBRECHT (UPE 1972)**: "I attended the Farewell Dinner of the 2023 Abes in the King David/Mowbray Golf Clubhouse, a double storey building. My eldest son (also Japie) accompanied me, as I no longer drive at night due to poor eyesight. Upon arrival we were greeted by our hosts, and then mingled with the crowd, after receiving some sherry. We then sat down for dinner and the speeches. As usual, it was a wonderful event, and I would like to strongly encourage all Abes that are able to attend this annual event, to do so. We were served very nice red Porcupine Ridge Merlot, and at one stage my son warned me to "go slow on the Merlot". But I said "Why? You are driving home, so what can go wrong?" Ja, well famous (almost) last words. When we left, we walked down the stairs. On what I

thought was the last step, I missed the step and fell like an elephant having been shot. Nonetheless, we drove home, and I had a good laugh about my mishap (miss step). The next morning my right knee was swollen, but I insisted that all is well. When Japie Jr returned from university, he insisted that I must see the doctor. To cut a long story short: no bones were broken, but I had torn the tendon from the bone in the right knee. This required an operation by an orthopaedic surgeon, wearing a knee brace, walking with crutches and no driving for 12 weeks! The surgeon told me it would take 9 months for the knee to recover, and I am still in rehabilitation at our university's Biokinetics section. And to anyone who asked what happened, I said: "I got tripped by a porcupine". Sorry to hear of your mishap, but so good to have you with us at the dinner.

14. OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE:

- To all who sent in news, contributions, up-dated contact details and located 'lost' Abes.
- To Chairman **Brian Figaji and the Abe Bailey Trustees** for their commitment to the annual travel bursary programme and the Abe Bailey Fellowship.
- To **Lynnsay Jones**, Trust Officer, for her conscientious work in connection with the programme.
- To **Debbie Webber**, our local travel agent who arranges flight reservations with great care.
- To outgoing Tour Manager, **Keith Richardson**, for his commitment to the tour and for doing the online panel discussions with the 2024 nominees.
- To Goodenough Director **Alice Walpole** and her team for their support and for welcoming the tour party to Goodenough College.
- To **David Turner**, former bursar at The Burn, and to his wife **Sarah**, for years of pleasant hospitality, and a warm welcome to the new bursar, **Ms Janet Wallwork-Clarke**.

Warm good wishes to all Fellows, wherever you find yourself at present. Please keep in touch and send in some news about your doings and tour memories.

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