

### What a great tribute

The latest *WITSReview* (April 2023) reached me the other day and between my wife and myself we've read most of it. My goodness, **Dr Anthony Holley** (MBBCh 1991) is quite a boytjie, isn't he?



As always, I read the obituaries first. This time I was reminded, very poignantly, of two men who'd lectured to me way back in the early 1960s.

**David James** (BSc Eng 1950, 1952) was a wonderful physics lecturer and **John Bradley** kept us aspirant electrical engineers both bemused and entertained by the bewildering aspects of chemistry – a world of eternal mystery to us. Somehow, we passed. It's another excellent issue and well done in producing such a great tribute to a great university.

**Brian Austin**  
(BSc Eng 1976, MBA 1988)



### Thank you for making an impact

Thanks so much! The story is just wonderful – and it looks gorgeous! The Anthropology Department has been in touch with me and **Regina**

**Twala's** (BA 1948) family; they are planning on re-naming a postgraduate student award in honour of Twala. So, thank you for the publicity for Twala. It's really great to see it making an impact.

**Joel Cabrera**  
Stanford University (author of *Written Out*)

### Keep up the good work

Last week my wife brought me the April 2023 edition of *WITSReview* – she got it from someone at our Friday Church Market. I only read it last night. I just want to congratulate you and your team with the high standard of this magazine...interesting articles, history and stories about old students...some that I still remember from public life! A very interesting story that I enjoyed was the one of **Natalie Keetsi** – “A year at Harvard Law School” – the best law school in the world. As a young man I was always dreaming of studying there. I am impressed with what **Natalie** achieved in life – I am sure she will soon be a Professor at that institution. I studied law at Tuks in the middle sixties, am now 83-years-old and retired 25 years ago and live in Strand/Somerset West. I wish you and your team good luck with the great work that you are doing, publishing a magazine of this calibre.

**Ben van Rensburg**  
Strand

### I enjoy the alumni stories

I'd just like to express my appreciation for the *WITSReview* and its quality in both content and presentation over the last few years. They have all been really interesting and

presented in a professional and attractive format. I particularly enjoy the alumni stories. My congratulations and thanks to the team.

I'm a fourth-generation Witsie with a proud family connection to the university since 1921. My great grandfather, **John Mitchell Watt** (LLD *honoris causa* 1972) was the first professor of pharmacology in 1921 and the first Dean in the Faculty of Medicine in 1922. He's particularly remembered



in his field for the monograph with **Dr Maria Breyer-Brandwijk**, *The Medicinal and Poisonous Plants of Southern and Eastern Africa*.

His son and my grandfather, **Ian Boris Watt** (BSc Eng 1947) later became professor of surveying. He had a keen interest in archaeology and he surveyed and developed the excavation grid for Sterkfontein caves where the now-famous Little Foot skeleton was discovered by Profs **Ron Clarke** and **Phillip Tobias**. His daughter and my mother, **Patricia de Saxe** (BA 1982) went on to work for several mining houses during her career as a market research analyst.

Finally, I am an engineering graduate and was a visiting senior lecturer in the School of Mechanical Industrial and Aeronautical Engineering, teaching a 2nd-year engineering course in the evenings through Wits Plus and supervised several final-year and master's students. Today, although I am based in the UK, I maintain research activities at Wits via the South African Centre for Sustainable Road Freight.

**Dr Chris de Saxe**  
(BSc Eng 2009, MSc Eng 2012)

# It begins with the students

Image: Brett Eloff

In August 2023 **Kgomotso Mufamadi** (BA 2006, LLB 2009, LLM 2011) became the new President of Convocation for a four-year term.

Kgomotso is an attorney of the High Court of South Africa, a qualified commissioner of the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration and a lecturer at the University of Johannesburg. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political studies and law, a Bachelor of Laws degree as well as a master's in intellectual property and media law. She is a fellow of both Brightest Young Minds and the Aspen Institute's African Leadership Initiative, a recipient of the Inyathelo Youth in Philanthropy Award and was among the *Mail & Guardian's* Top 200 Young South Africans in 2015. She serves on several boards and is currently reading towards a doctorate in labour law.

She told *WITSReview* “My vision for my term is focused on improved student engagement as I am of the view that alumni engagement begins in our formative

years at the university. I am committed to improving the public profile of Convocation. I look forward to continuously crafting and reshaping my vision as my journey progresses.”

Convocation is a statutory body and the name given to the University's largest constituency – its alumni. Over 200 000 graduates, Wits academic staff, and retired academics with 10 consecutive years' service to the University make up Convocation. Convocation is guided by legislation, Wits Statute and the Wits Rules.

The role of Convocation is “to discuss and state its opinion upon any matter relating to the University”.

The President of Convocation leads the executive team of Convocation and is a member of Council (the governing body of the University) and plays a formal role at graduation ceremonies. The President works in collaboration with the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, the Alumni Relations Office and the Development and Fundraising Office.