



Issue 7: 18 Mar 2008

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the University This short week before the Easter break is again filled with appearances, lectures and seminars by prominent people visiting Wits. One such lecture was presented by the Chief Scientific Adviser to the British Department for International Development (DfID) entitled Africa and climate change – known knowns, known unknowns and unknown unknowns. Read more about the Clean Energy Forum hosted by Wits below. The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs spoke at the opening of the Conference on Migration Studies which is currently taking place in the South-West Engineering Building, while the Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics and the Adler Museum of Medicine hosts a week of activities highlighting Justice, Health and Human Rights. Read more about this event here <<http://web.wits.ac.za/NewsRoom/NewsItems/biko08.htm>> . Wits University Press and the Standard Bank Gallery invite you to the launch of African Dream Machines: Style, Identity and Meaning of African Headrests by Anitra Nettleton. African Dream Machines, winner of the Wits University Research Committee Publication Award in 2006, is an important reference work that takes African headrests out of the category of functional objects and into the more rarefied category of 'art' objects. Guest speakers include Prof. Jane Taylor, the Skye Chair of Dramatic Art. It takes place today, Wednesday, 19 March 2008 at 17:00 at the Standard Bank Gallery, Simmonds Street, Johannesburg. Have a good week and enjoy the Easter break!

The Wits Communications Team

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News

CLIMATE CHANGE AND CLEAN ENERGY UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT



Sir Gordon Conway, Chief Scientific Adviser to the British Department for International Development (DfID), yesterday participated in the Clean Energy Forum, hosted by Wits University. [Read more](#)

'HEART OF SOWETO' STUDY REVEALS HIGH PREVALENCE OF HEART DISEASE IN THE SOWETO POPULATION



Cardiovascular diseases, particularly those related to atherosclerosis (fatty lesions in the blood vessels) and high blood pressure, are often perceived to be problems unique to the 'developed world' or high-income countries. However, in many regions of the world, physically active lives have been replaced with inactive ones with people consuming calories out of proportion to their daily needs. [Read more](#)

WITS ARTS AND LITERARY EXPERIENCE TO BE CELEBRATED AT WITS



All Joburgers, old and young, hip and square, interested in the arts and literature should clear their diaries from Thursday, 3 April to Sunday, 6 April 2008. This is when the Faculty of Humanities hosts the 2008 Arts and Literary Experience at Wits University. [Read more](#)

PROFILE



Since 1996 Prof. Karen Sliwa has been conducting research on epidemiology and etiology of various forms of cardiomyopathy in people living in Africa. Read more about her research endeavours here. [Read more](#)

Wits Fact

Prof. Jill Adler is the only educationist in the country to have been awarded an A-rating by the National Research Foundation.

Newsbytes

The annual Friedel Sellschop Award winners have been announced and this year, the accolades were given to three diverse candidates. The award, named after the late Professor Jacques Pierre Friederich 'Friedel' Sellschop, former Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research and widely known as the founder of nuclear applied physics in South Africa, is awarded annually to recognise and motivate exceptional young researchers. The award is open to members of staff in all faculties. Dr Denise Lindsay, Senior Lecturer in the School of Molecular and Cell

Biology, Dr Eric Roberts, Lecturer in Sedimentology and Prof. Ebrahim Momoniat, Head of the School of Computer Science, were the recipients of the 2008 award. Lindsay's research focuses on food and environmental bacteriology. She received R105,000 which will be used

for much needed equipment in the food safety laboratory. Momoniat's research is focused on solving differential equations. Differential equations describe how physical quantities change over time. He also received R105,000 per year for the next three years to conduct his research. Roberts' research interests include clastic sedimentology, basin analysis, taphonomy and paleontology. He has in the past been affiliated with the geological Society of America, the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the Society for Sedimentary Geologists, the Paleontological Society, the National Association of Geoscience Teachers and the Geological Society of South Africa.

The World Economic Forum last week announced that the International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) co-founder, Executive Vice-President and Wits graduate Paul van Zyl has been selected as a Young Global Leader for 2008. This prestigious honour is awarded annually by the World Economic Forum to recognise and acknowledge 200-300 young leaders from around the world for their professional accomplishments, commitment to society and potential to contribute to shaping the future of the world. Drawn from a pool of nearly 5,000 candidates, the Young Global Leaders 2008 are chosen by a selection committee comprising 31 distinguished international media leaders. The 245 awardees come from over 65 countries and various backgrounds, including academia, business, government, media and civil society.

French Studies at Wits invites you to a public lecture to be presented by Emmanuel Dongala, a leading writer from Congo (Brazzaville) entitled Hollywood, Pirated Videos and Child Soldiers. Dongala is a Professor of Chemistry at the Simon Rock College, Massachusetts as well as a Professor of Francophone African Literature at Bard College, New York. The welcome address will be delivered by Prof. Leon de Kock, Head of the School of Literature and Language Studies, followed by an introduction by renowned writer, Dr Véronique Tadjo, also the Head of French Studies at Wits University. The lecture will take place on Tuesday, 1 April 2008 at 17:30 in the Geosciences Lecture Theatre.

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