



The US Witsie



Wits Fund Newsletter December 2022

witsfund.org

Wits turned 100 in 2022 Learn more [here](#).

Happy Holidays to you all, dear Witsies!



Wits celebrates thousands of Graduands at its December Graduation ceremonies



...Including an Honorary Degree conferred on Wits Fund Board member, Prof Hazel Sive...

for her contribution towards promoting academic excellence and international partnerships. Read more about [Prof Sive's](#) career and achievements here: [A Wits alumna and renowned biologist shared how her international career started with unravelling 'ant songs' and scrutinizing frog eggs.](#)

... and 165 (red-gowned) PhDs, who through their effort and determination, have graduated, ready to use the knowledge and skills that they have attained to change the world for good. Read more [here](#).





New High-Tech Digital Dome Catapults Johannesburg Planetarium into the Future

Wits University and Anglo American to transform the Johannesburg Planetarium into a world-class digital research, training, and science engagement facility.

Students, researchers, and Joburgers will soon have access to a cutting-edge 360-degree visual experience in the new Wits Anglo American Digital Dome, where they will learn through immersion in multi-dimensional, cross-disciplinary worlds.

“We are creating a high-tech 360° IMAX-like theatre, just better,” says Professor Roger Deane, Director of the Wits Centre for Astrophysics and the SKA Chair in Radio Astronomy at Wits. Deane has served as Chair of the Digital Dome Working Group, which includes leading AI researchers, scientists, digital artists, and quantum computing engineers. “The Digital Dome will provide an incredible theatre experience, but it will also serve a greater purpose – it will assist researchers across all disciplines to visualise data in a profound way.”

Read more [here](#).



New high-tech Digital Dome catapults Johannesburg Planetarium into the future

KEEP GOING, STRAIGHT-STRAIGHT, UNTIL THE NEXT ROBOT: HOW AN AI OBSESSION TOOK ONE WITSIE FROM THE LIBRARY LAWNS TO THE IVY LEAGUE

IF YOU COULDN'T MAKE IT for the Wits Fund Indaba, and stories from [Prof George Konidaris](#) - of his favorite Library Lawn tree, the slushy dash, late-night inspiration from 5FM and Barney Simon, and the evolution of all the robots... they are here, in the recording below.

And he'll answer the question on all our minds <queue dramatic music>: Will Robots Take Over the World?



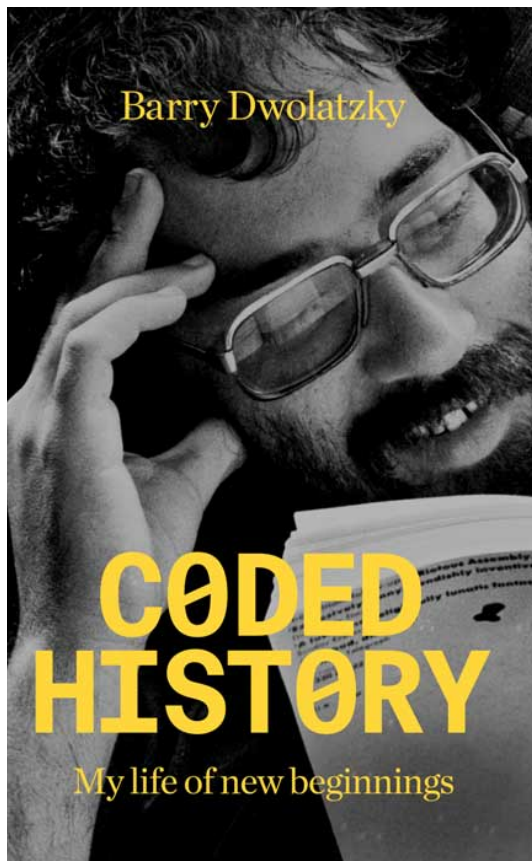
George Konidaris (Wits Fund board member) is an Associate Professor of Computer Science at Brown University, where he directs the Intelligent Robot Lab.

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Vision

To ensure that Wits University remains one of Africa's – and the world's – pre-eminent research-intensive educational institutions, with top academic standards, committed faculty, and supportive alumni.

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Wits University Emeritus Professor Barry Dwolatzky launches inspirational memoir, smartly capturing his less-than-ordinary coded history.

In his new memoir, [Coded History – A life of new beginnings](#), lauded as ‘revealing, inspirational and vulnerable’, Dwolatzky captures his extraordinary 'life of new beginnings'.

He also shares his love and connection with Wits University which spans more than 50 years, starting as a student in electrical engineering in the early 70s where he graduated with a BSc(Eng) degree and later his PhD, and where he has since devoted much of his time to prepare young people for the future.

Read more [here](#).

Love the new look newsletter? Have some suggestions? Want to tell us your story of how you got here? Please write in and tell us: <https://witsfund.org/contact/>



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The University of the Witwatersrand Fund, Inc.
PO Box 7101, New York, NY 10150

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