



The US Witsie



Wits Fund Newsletter July 2023

witsfund.org

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

KNOW IT'S COME AND GONE, BUT HAPPY FOURTH, Y'ALL! Here's hoping you and your family and friends are taking advantage of the beautiful summertime activities all across the United States. And as we celebrate our American home, let us never forget our beloved South African homeland.

WITS HONORS RENOWNED US PHYSICIST JIM GATES



A brilliant intellectual with an insatiable thirst for knowledge,

Prof. Jim Gates shattered boundaries and unlocked secrets of the Universe.

Professor James Sylvester Gates (Junior), commonly known as Jim Gates, is a renowned physicist & mathematician whose contributions have significantly influenced the fields of supersymmetry, supergravity, and superstring theory, and shaped our understanding of the Universe.

Born in 1950, in Tampa, Florida, Gates' exceptional career spans several decades and has earned him global recognition.

In acknowledgment of his outstanding intellectual contributions to science, and his remarkable leadership in African scientific communities, Professor Jim Gates was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Wits University on 14 July 2023.

This accolade acknowledges his lifelong commitment to advancing knowledge, his exceptional leadership, and his role as an ambassador for science.

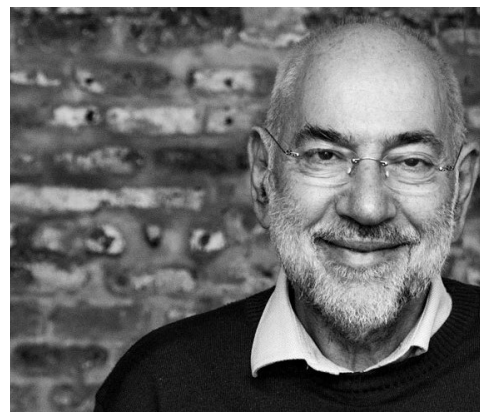
Read more [here](#).





WATCH | South African Sign Language becomes SA's twelfth official language, Wits and the University of Edinburgh venture into Space research, and Professor Sylvester Gates is honoured with a prestigious doctorate for his outstanding contributions to science! Don't miss it in episode ten of Wits in 60 Seconds. Get the full stories at www.wits.ac.za/news/

An outpouring of grief has followed the passing of [Professor Barry Dwolatzky](#) - an innovator, a strategist, a humanitarian, and a much-loved Professor. The Wits Fund is setting up a campaign to help channel donations - made in Prof Barry's name and memory - towards Wits University, a place to which he dedicated 50 years of his life.



If you would like to donate, please click on the link below to reach the Wits Fund giving page. If you would like to discuss a bespoke gift in Prof Barry's name, please contact us at nooshin.erfani-ghadimi@wits.ac.za

Donate to the Prof Barry Memorial Campaign

Halala South Africa - Sign Language 12th Official



President Cyril Ramaphosa signed into law the South African Sign Language Bill during a ceremony at the Union Buildings in Pretoria on Wednesday, 19 July 2023. This makes South Africa the fourth country on the continent to recognise sign language as an official language; other countries are Kenya, Zimbabwe and Uganda.

This highly anticipated move follows years of lobbying and will promote the rights of persons who are deaf and hard of hearing.

The [Wits Centre for Deaf Studies](#) has congratulated the Deaf community adding that this milestone represents a significant step towards inclusivity, accessibility, and equality for all members of our diverse society.

“We need to continue to fight and work towards implementing the Bill,” says Dr Claudine Storbeck from the Centre.

“We need to make sure that teachers of the Deaf are finally trained; teachers of the Deaf are finally required to learn South African Sign Language before they teach; to ensure real access to services that are fundamental human rights such as the justice system, health system, social services and many other things” Storbeck.

Read more [here](#)

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.

Donate Today

SAVE THE DATES

Rounding up Witsies in



TEXAS

Dallas:
6 September

Austin:
7 September

Houston:
10 September

San Antonio:
12 September

Let us know if you don't reside in Texas but would like to receive an invitation: events.alumni@wits.ac.za

Witsies in Texas and elsewhere can also update their address and contact details in the **comprehensive update form** [here](#). You need **ONLY** complete the name, email and preferred address fields to submit.

Contact Lerato.Mtambanengwe@wits.ac.za if you encounter any difficulty updating your details.

Travelling to Israel or Dubai?

Sunday 15 October: Herzliya/Tel Aviv

Tuesday 17 October: Jerusalem

Thursday 19 October: Dubai

Enquires: Peter.Maher@wits.ac.za

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Missed one of the previous newsletters? Here they are, on one page: <https://witsfund.org/latest/>

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