

## **REPORT TO THE 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

[Corrected as at 18 Nov 15]

### **2015 IN BRIEF**

An unusually large number and variety of events has kept the Branch very busy this year including speakers' meetings, the annual Interschool Quiz held at Bishops on 19<sup>th</sup> August and the annual Careers evening at UCT on 17<sup>th</sup> September as well as other presentations. As the new chair of the Branch from the beginning of the year it has been quite a roller coaster ride.

Administratively we have done well and also managed to maintain a reasonable financial position.

Our relationship with Jan Smuts House has, as ever, been very good with much highly valued support from that quarter.

### **BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OPERATIONAL MATTERS**

After last year's AGM, at the beginning of 2015 Sheila Camerer was elected Chair of the Branch. She has kept the Parliamentary Portfolio. Other Portfolios include Martyn Trainor (Deputy Chair and Membership), Dr Martha Bridgman (Interschool Quiz), Prof. Chris Saunders (Universities), Anthony Silberberg (Diplomatic Liaison and Corporates), Rob Mackay, Dave Wheeler, Patrick Holloway, Richard Higgs (Honorary Treasurer). Co-opted members are Alex Benkenstein (GARP Office representative), Hilary Price, (student liaison UCT), and Shawn Duthie (alt. student rep).

Indefatigable Pippa Segall has continued her hard work as our Branch and Project Coordinator and Lidia Hall continues to look after the accounts for which we are grateful.

The Branch Executive Committee has met regularly to keep the plans of this very busy year going and as new chair I would like to express my gratitude for all the hard work and valuable contributions by an extraordinary, committed group of volunteers. I was delighted to be able to host the Committee at an informal, getting-to-know-you gathering at my home.

Many thanks are also due to other Branch members who do the many and varied tasks behind the scenes that go into the organizing of our various events. Sadly during the year we lost one of our stalwarts Ruth Hobbs who was always willing to do door duty. The hard work over years of her bereaved and ailing husband Julian Hobbs has been acknowledged with an honorary membership.

We continue to be very grateful to the Mountain Club of South Africa, Cape Town Section for the continued use of their club house at a reasonable rate and for the assistance of their members.

#### National Office Bearers

## ACTIVITIES

A full programme of events and speakers' meetings focused on a variety of international matters including African and South African issues. All events were well attended. A list of all events to date is attached. Particularly well attended were talks by Greg Mills, former Director of SAIIA, new D A leader Mmusi Maimane, R W Johnson, author of best seller, *How Long will South Africa Survive*, and a talk by Professor Irina Filatova, together with Dr Sara Pienaar on Putin's Russia, as well as addresses by British High Commissioner Judith McGregor and US Consul General Teddy Taylor.

GARP – SAIIA's Governance of Africa Resources Programme, based in Cape Town - which co-operates with the SAIIA Western Cape Branch to offer certain more academic talks of great interest- as well as the youth programme and diplomatic liaison continues to support and work well with the branch.

We are very grateful for the support we received from the Konrad-Adenauer Stiftung (Foundation) – KAS which also provided the generous sponsorship needed for our very successful careers evening for students of Western Cape universities.

### The full programme of events for 2015 is given below:

Date	EVENT	SPEAKER	Sponsor/co-convenor	Present
12 Jan 15	"Why do States Recover – and what does future success of South Africa look like?"	Dr Greg Mills	SAIIA WC, at MC	150+
5 Mar 15	"International Relations and Infectious Diseases – the politics of bugs"	Erica Penfold with discussant Professor Pieter Fourie	SAIIA WC, at MC	61
9 Mar 15	"The UK and SA – the bilateral relationship today"	Judith Macgregor, UK High Commissioner	SAIIA WC, at MC	100+
24 Mar 15	"Putin's Russia – at home and abroad"	Dr Sara Pienaar and Prof Irina Filatova	SAIIA WC, at MC	106
6 May 15	"Understanding Terrorism in Africa: how much of a threat is ISIS?"	Prof Hussein Solomon	SAIIA WC, at MC	82
19 May 15	"The International Politics of the Illegal Trade in Wildlife"	Panel discussion	GARP funded breakfast, at CfB Comm Room	50
20 May 15	"South Africa's Foreign Policy for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century – a Closer Look at the Potential for Co-operation in the South Atlantic Zone"	Mr Luwellyn Landers, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Co-operation	DIRCO, SAIIA JSH and SAIIA WC, at Parliament	120
20 Jun 15	"Georgia and Geopolitics"	Mr Tedo Japaridze, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Georgian Parliament	Georgian Embassy through JSH, at MC	50
16 Jul 15	Book launch "How South Africa	Jeffrey Herbst and Dr Greg Mills with Tony	Brenthurst Foundation,	176

	Works – and must do better”	Leon and DIRCO rep as discussants	at MC	
12 Aug 15	Fracking in South Africa: Good or Bad - To a better understanding of the economics behind South Africa's energy choices	Mr Saliem Fakir	GARP funded, at MC	130
19 Aug 15	INTERSCHOOL QUIZ		At Bishops. Abe Bailey Trust funded	100's!
24 Aug 15	Foreign Policy under a DA government: A return to human rights and the building of a brand to attract business	Mmusi Maimane	SAIIA WC, at MC	180
10 Sep 15	Reflections of the Gulf of Guinea's most neglected natural resource - its maritime domain'	Joana Ama Osei-Tutu	SAIIA WC, at MC	30
17 Sep 15	CAREERS EVENING		At UCT. Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung funded	200+
k30 Sep 15	A Conversation about US – South Africa Relations	Teddy Taylor US CG	SAIIA WC, at MC	83
7 Oct 15	The International Ramifications of SA's Crisis	R W Johnson	SAIIA WC, at MC	118
18 Nov 15	How can African leaders engage with the challenge of inequality?	Prof Alan Hirsch	SAIIA WC, at MC. [AGM]	51
9 Dec 15	TBA	Gareth Evans, former Foreign Minister of Australia	SAIIA WC, at MC	

## MEMBERSHIP 2015

The upward trend in membership numbers over the past years has continued in 2015, which is pleasing. There has been a 22% overall increase in the key subscription-paying categories of Individual; Family/Couple/Guest; and Student [versus 17% growth in the previous year]. Again, the flexibility of the Family/Couple/Guest category seems to be the key to its growth.

A relatively large number of visitors attend events, which provides fertile ground for recruiting members as well as a substantial income stream – about R 8,500 in the 2014/15 SAIIA financial year!

The continuing rise in membership numbers and the number of visitors is probably due to a combination of factors such as: the relevance and interest of the events; the warm and hospitable ambiance of the events; and the pro-active recruiting efforts of Pippa Segall, members of the committee, and the “door team” of Chris Inskip and John Patten.

There was an increase in the subscription rates due to rising expenses.

The membership numbers in the various categories for 2012 to 2015 are given below. The layout has been adjusted to make the significant information more visible

### Table of Membership Numbers

**NB.** Please note that the figures for 2015 and the preceding years have been adjusted so that the nominal figures relating to the categories *Diplomatic/Consular* and *Members of Parliament* as well as the *Institutional/educational [school and university]* list separately.

Category	2015	2014	2013	2012
Corporate/nominees	5	5	5	3
Diplomatic/consular	3 [28**]	[28**]	[28**]	[28**]
Institutional/educational	1 [52*]	[57*]	[58*]	[55*]
Family/guest [2x people]	90	76	56	30
Fellow/complimentary	10	7	7	5
Honorary life	8	6	6	5
Individual	77	64	64	73
Members of Parliament	[44**]	[44**]	[44**]	[44**]
Students	22	15	12	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>216 + [124]=340</b>	<b>173 + [129]=302</b>	<b>150 + [130]=280</b>	<b>126 + [127]=253</b>

[Membership numbers as at 16 Oct 15]

\*Includes 50 schools SAIIA co-sponsored with the Abe Bailey Trust and two political studies departments.

\*\*Nominal figures

### **FINANCE**

The overall financial situation of the Western Cape Branch is satisfactory.

The subscriptions paid by the members are at the heart of the Branch activities. There was a modest increase in the subscription rates due to rising expenses. The number of members showed a positive increase year-on-year of 22%.

From this base, together with a grant from SAIIA head office, visitors fees, and some sponsored events (including events sponsored annually by the SAIIA GARP Office), the Branch has been able to present 14 talks during the financial year 2014/15 and raise the large sponsorships required for the Interschool Quiz and the Careers Evening. These two major youth outreach programmes of SAIIA Western Cape have been possible financially due to the fundraising efforts of Dr Martha Bridgman and Pippa Segall, together with the generosity of the Abe Bailey Trust and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.

The Branch operating position, excluding the Quiz, shows a surplus of R 1,891 of income versus expenditure

The figure of R 114,172, being the accumulated funds at the end of the year, 30 June 2015, could be misleading due to the timing of cash flows. The Quiz sponsorship was received early in the year but the Quiz itself took place in August. Quiz expenses before the year-end were R 39,850 and about R 54,000 after the year-end.

The Executive Committee took a decision in the course of the year to make a one-off adjustment in which R 10,000 was transferred from the Quiz to the Branch. This was a broad adjustment relating to previous years where there was uncertainty about the split due to the lack of a reliable paper trail. An appropriate paper trail is now being kept to ensure that in future an accurate split is recorded.

Out of the total year-end cash balance of R114,172 the amount of R 102,281 relates to the Quiz and R 11,891 relates to the Branch.

The management of income versus costs has improved and continues to be a focus to ensure the financial health of the Branch. The collection of subscriptions and visitors' fees at the door has improved and the drive to recruit members is bearing fruit.

## **INTERSCHOOL QUIZ**

The 23rd SAIIA interschool Quiz on International Affairs took place on Wednesday, 19 August 2015, with a total of 45 teams (180 learners) participating. The quiz is designed to draw learners of all backgrounds from among the schools in the Western Cape into reading world news, and especially news and analysis about South Africa's international affairs. A pre-quiz workshop gave new teams, as well as schools who did not fare well in the previous year, an opportunity to receive coaching and to practise for the quiz through a 'mini-quiz'.

Quiz MC Africa Melane of Cape Talk Radio performed his role with skill and flair. Quiz Master Jonathan Stead, from the SAIIA National office, was clear in his delivery of questions and kept the evening moving. Our Keynote Speaker was Eltie Links, a retired ambassador, professor and businessman, as well as a member of the SAIIA National Council, a Trustee on the Board of the Abe Bailey Trust and a member of the Executive Committee of the Western Cape Branch of SAIIA.

First prize was shared by Chesterhouse and Spine Road after a re-mark on one point, and La Rochelle Girls High took third prize.

The quiz was covered by the *EP Herald* and by National Public Radio in the US, which has an audience in the hundreds of thousands. This can be viewed on <http://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2015/09/20/441222577/quiz-are-you-smarter-than-a-south-african-high-school-student> and you are welcome to try out the quiz and see if you are smarter than South African learners!

Thanks go to the Abe Bailey Trust, our main sponsor for the 2015 quiz, to Bishops for the use of the Mallett Centre, and to Pippa Segall, the Quiz Coordinator, for pulling it all together so seamlessly.

## **CAREERS EVENING**

This is the third year that we have partnered with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) on this event. The careers evening took place on 17 September at the Leslie Building, UCT.

The four speakers were excellent and came from diverse backgrounds and included Marianne Camerer from the Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice, William Stockdale (a SAIIA member) from Salamanca and from the SANDF, our very own Vice Admiral Martyn Trainor and Commander Patrick Jones and the SAIIA/KAS intern, Busi Siyobi. Roughly 200 students attended, from UCT, UWC and University of Stellenbosch. We managed to introduce the students to a large number of interesting exhibitors including SANDF, WESGRO, Energy Research Centre businesses and individuals who work in the sector of international affairs. With the help of Hilary Price, SAIIA student representative and Busi Siyobi from the SAIIA GARP office, all the arrangements went smoothly. KAS support was wonderful throughout. We look forward to repeating the event in 2016 and doubling the number of students who attend.

## **UNIVERSITIES**

We were approached by the US Consulate General, Cape Town to host US researchers from the National Intelligence Council (NIC) who wanted to meet with some students at UCT on Monday 4th May. Our student rep at UCT, Hilary Price, coordinated the event entitled: "Global Trends 2035". This seminar was one of many meetings with groups and individuals in South Africa and around the world to gather research and garner a variety of perspectives. We hope to organise more events on the university campuses going forward.

## **YOUTH@SAIIA**

youth@saiia is the SAIIA youth programme based at Jan Smuts House. With support and encouragement from the Branch it also operates in the Western Cape.

Two mini Model United Nations programmes (mini-MUN] were held in February and March, hosted by the International School in Hout Bay and Springfield. The topic for both mini-MUNs was Education in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. A total of 30 teams of 3 learners each took part in both the mini-MUNs. Unfortunately due to the lack of funding, all model UN debates are on hold.

## **DIPLOMATIC LIAISON**

During the year we bade farewell to the Consul Generals of Belgium, Brazil, Peoples Republic of China, Indonesia, Italy, Portugal, and the Russian Federation as well as to Chris Trott, British Consul General who was always a staunch supporter of SAIIA, Western Cape. The Director General of the Taipei Liaison Office was promoted as Ambassador to St Kitts and Nevis. We welcomed the new Consul General of Britain, D J Edmunson; Brazil, Carlos Alberto Lopes Asfora; PR China, Kang Yong; Indonesia, Abdul Dudung; Italy, A Tagliafari; Portugal, Ms C Y Olivier Rodrigues; Russia, Roman Ambarov and as well as, the Director

General of the Taipei Liaison Office, Charles Liu. We wish the new arrivals a pleasant and successful term at the Fairest Cape in the entire World. This may seem a large number of changes but is part of the regular three year rotation programme.

It is also noted with regret that Joe Emeran, Honorary Consul for Morocco and a former Chairman of SAIIA Western Cape has passed away.

Bari Rafatrolaza, Consul General of Madagascar, being the longest serving member has been appointed Dean of the Cape Consular Corps and we look forward to hosting a joint "Meet and Greet" function for members and the Cape Consular Corps. Hopefully we will be able to follow up on the highly successful function that was held at the Royal Cape last year.

A good relationship has also been established with the New South Wales Branch of the Australian Institute of International Affairs. This organisation operates on very similar lines to our branch. The earlier linkage is very evident and AIIA predates SAIIA by five years. The NSW Branch is very active and hosts weekly talks at their premises in Sydney.

### **CORPORATE LIAISON**

This has been a very active year with the Cape Regional Chamber establishing its office at their new premises. An Executive Director, Sid Peimer has been appointed and a strong relationship has been developed. The Chamber AGM will be held on 26 November and it is anticipated that a new Chamber President will be appointed. It is proposed that a meeting be held with the Chamber President and the Executive Director to consider and discuss co-operation and collaboration between the two organisations to our mutual benefit, I have represented SAIIA at several important Chamber meetings as well as on the Distinguished Speaker and Leaders Angle Programmes at the Graduate School of Business and the Stellenbosch Business School. The main objective is to enhance the profile and prestige of the Western Cape Branch of SAIIA.

### **CONCLUSION**

We come to the end of a very busy year during which we have hosted a number of fascinating speakers - some high profile writers and diplomats; some extremely knowledgeable academics addressing topics of current relevance – presenting a wide spectrum of wisdom, experience, youth and energy.

As a team of volunteers I believe we have pulled together magnificently during this 81<sup>st</sup> year of our existence and I am sure we are all looking forward to the challenges of 2016.

The Chair  
Sheila Camerer