

Glittering Consular Ball

The Cape Times Bursary Fund was one of the recipients of funds raised at a glittering evening at which stars of the Consular Corps, their friends and business associates came out to shine on October 19 when R330 000 was raised.

The annual ball, attended by representatives of 18 countries, benefits local charities. The other beneficiaries this year were Proud Partners, the Durbanville Children's Home and the I Am Living Trust.

The ball, which was held at the Pigalle Restaurant, is endorsed by Western Cape Premier Helen Zille and she offered a dinner at her home for bidders in a fun and spectacular auction which also saw a tennis racquet belonging to Swiss legend Roger Federer go under the hammer.

Bidders could also raise their hands for tea with Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu and a small role in Deon Meyer's new film.

Others placed their bids on a six course gourmet dinner with wine pairing for eight, cooked by renowned chef Bertus Basson of Overture, prepared

at the winner's home. An evening with acclaimed international sculpture Dylan Lewis was on offer as well, at his Stellenbosch sculpture garden.

The Consular Ball will take place next year on October 25, again at the Pigalle Restaurant.



Left to right: Shelagh Gastrow, Soraya Joonas, Vishwanee Kowlessur, Peter Gastrow, Charl Stevens, Dr Iqbal Survé, Chairman of Independent Newspapers, Paul Lamontagne, Mukhtar Joonas, Honorary Consul of Mauritius and Nadia Survé



Also seen at the Consular Ball were;



Cacho and Molly Cabral, the Honorary Consul of Chile



Roger Vyghen, the Consul of Belgium, and his wife Anna



Michal and Tony Leon



Elsabe Daneel, MC of the Ball, and Isabel Verwey



Dabing and Yumei Chen, Carol and Ruben Richards



Dr & Dr Verheye, Sir and Lady Simoen

Consular Corps donates R100 000 to the Cape Times Bursary Fund

CAPE TIMES BURSARY FUND

The Cape Times Bursary Fund (CTBF) has been in existence since 1982 to enable the young people of South Africa to reach their potential.

Skills for our Children: this sums up the spirit of the bursary fund, which has helped over 500 children reach their dream of higher education.

The CTBF is part of a wider programme run by its partner organisation ASSET - Association for Educational Transformation.

The ASSET Bursary Fund Programme provides bursaries for over 500 students per year at tertiary institutions of Higher Education.

Last year alone it provided R400 000 towards students, of whom 28 were existing bursars in ongoing studies, while 13 were new bursars entering their first year.

PASS RATE

Cape Times bursars have excelled themselves down the years, boasting a 90 percent pass rate since 2003 for their final examinations.

In the period 2003 to 2012 this result proved the high quality of the recipients of the Cape Times Bursaries.

TRUSTEES OF THE BURSARY FUND

James McGregor:
Retired Financial Director
Board of Executors

Alide Dasnois:
Editor | Cape Times

Chris Whitfield:
Editor in Chief
Independent Newspapers Cape

Sandy Naude:
General Manager
Independent Newspapers Cape

Les Williams:
Retired General Manager
Independent Newspapers Cape

Dr Prieur du Plessis:
Founder & Executive Chairman
Plexus Asset Management



Dean of the Cape Town Consular Corps, Dr Jorge Da Fonseca, hands over a cheque for R100 000 to Les Williams, retired General Manager, Independent Newspapers Cape

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It is certainly pleasing to know that the many hundreds of students who have successfully graduated, have been able to improve their situations, making a difference not only to their own lives, but to those of their families and communities.

Thanks should also be conveyed to many top Cape Town businessmen who have given their time to guide the fund over the past 31 years. Special mention should be made of former long serving Chairman, Brian Robinson (previously Chairman of Syfrets Limited) and recently retired Chairman James McGregor (previously Financial Director of the Board of Executors)

We also hope that the history of success and sound management guidance will encourage more readers of the Cape Times - and particularly businesses in Cape Town - to contribute towards the urgent need for providing higher education.

LES WILLIAMS - TRUSTEE

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“Bursary Fund is awesome!”

HE WENT to school in Mowbray and every day watched students from nearby UCT walking past on their way to and from classes.

Odwa Siyamthanda Peter dreamt he would be one of those students. Peter, 19, is now a second year electrical engineering student at the Cape Town campus of the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. He is funded by the Cape Times Bursary Fund which is administered by the Association for Educational Transformation (Asset).

Peter knew that his family, who lived in a Gugulethu shack, could not afford to send him to university but was determined that wouldn't stop him.

“They could never afford to pay for my tuition. I always told my mom: ‘Don't worry. I'll work hard in matric. This will increase my chances of getting a bursary’, and then Asset came true for me.

“It's like the bursary is my family. We have textbooks that are expensive. So they provide me with money and I buy textbooks. They are awesome.”

Peter always knew he wanted to study



Odwa Siyamthanda Peter, second year Electrical Engineering student . Photo: Jonathan Jones

after completing matric at Thandokhulu Secondary School.

“I've always felt fascinated by electrical engineering so this was my first option.

“Coming from Thando-khulu, which is just near UCT, you know you want to go to university, you want to study. I want to do my four years and then I want to go to work.”

His second option had been to study and work with computers as he had a number of friends who studied IT and computer science.

Referencing the creator of Facebook, Peter said: “We could form a big group and be the next (Mark) Zuckerberg and create the next social network.” He said he hoped to eventually work for Eskom and help alleviate South Africa's electrical woes.

By Michelle Jones