

Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry Athlone & Cape Flats Chapter

Disability Summit

Guest Speaker 1 - Rustim Ariefdien

Rustim is a Disability Expert Extraordinaire. He has a Diploma in Disability Studies from the University of Cape Town. He assists businesses to "let the ability of disability enable their profitability". Rustim achieves this through the BBBEE elements of the score card, skills development, employment equity and socio-economic development. He ensures that businesses are able to maximize their points on the BBBEE scorecard and become compliant to legislative requirements as laid out in the Employment Equity and Skills Development Acts.

Guest Speaker 2 -Janine Myburgh

Janine Myburgh is the President and Chairperson of the Board of the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry – the only woman to be elected in the Chamber since its existence. She is currently serving her 6th term of office.

She is an attorney with over 20 years' experience with right of appearance in the High Court and is the Managing Director of Myburgh Attorneys Incorporated.

Janine has built up a substantial client base locally as well as internationally. She is very involved in her community, organized business, the legal profession and civil society.

She was granted honorary membership by the United Nations in recognition of her contributions to the South African society and to the advancement of the goals of the United Nations. Janine is a council member of the Cape Law Society as well as an alternate council member of the Law Society of South Africa. She is also the forum representative on these societies as appointed by the Minister of Justice. She has represented Organised Business abroad in USA, Turkey, China, India, Peru, Sweden, Hong Kong and Belgium. She is also a Board Member of IWEC (International Women's Entrepreneurs Challenge).

She actively supports numerous charities and schools and is a staunch advocate for the abused and the underprivileged.

Guest Speaker 3 - Michael Bagraim

Michael is a Member of Parliament for the Democratic Alliance. He is a Practicing Attorney and founder of Bagram's Attorneys.

He matriculated at Cape Town High School and graduated from Rhodes University with a BA and thereafter an LLB. He serves as a Trustee, Committee Member, and Executive Member of various associations, societies and groupings. Michael chairs disciplinary enquiries and consults with regards to dismissals for operational requirements as well as entering into mediation on behalf of clients of Altitude.

He is a regular contributor on industrial relations and labour law to radio, TV, newspapers and magazines. Michael have received awards from both the Medical Association of South Africa and the Law Society. An Award given by the Law Society for Human Rights Attorney of the Year 2015 and an award given by the South African Medical Association "In the Spirit of Service to Medicine for Medicine 2015".

Anthony Ghillino

In 1992 at the age of 16, Anthony Ghillino was involved in a Motor Vehicle Accident which left him a quadriplegic, paralysed from the neck down. After a period of adjustment Anthony, frustrated by and

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now aware of the challenges faced by persons with disabilities, became an active member of the Quad Para Association of the Western Cape (QAWC), serving on the Board for a number of years before being voted in as Chairperson of the organisation in 2006. A year after completing his term as Chairperson of the organisation, the position of Project Manager at QAWC became available. Anthony, who completed a course in New Venture Creation at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, successfully applied for the position which he filled until 2017 when he was promoted to General Manager. A vocal advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities, Anthony is the current Chairperson of the Western Cape Network on Disability, chairs the Facility Board of the Western Cape Rehabilitation Centre and serves on the Board of the Quad Para Association of South Africa (QASA). When not striving to improve the lives of and fighting for the rights of persons with disabilities, Anthony, who was a promising cricketer before his injury, relaxes by supporting his favourite cricket and football teams.

Adele Ebrahim

Adele is an Occupational Therapist and holds a Bachelor of Social Science Degree, a BSc in Occupational Therapy from the University of Cape Town as well as a Master's Degree in Education. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Disability Studies with an area of interest in the inclusion of disability issues in training and employment of persons with disabilities. She has extensive experience in incapacity and disability management within in the world of work as well as experience in training persons with disabilities and employers around disability issues within the employment sphere. Adele have also been involved in policy development processes around the inclusion of people with disabilities.

Erica du Toit

Erica has a family history of disability - stroke in particular - and was therefore sensitised to severe impairment and the resulting disabling attitudes of the public from an early age.

Erica has been with Western Cape Association for Persons with Disabilities (APD) for 24 years and for much of that time has been dedicated to raising awareness and educating the public on disability so as to change perceptions and stereotypes as well as promoting the rights of persons with disabilities.

She serves on the Executive Committee of the Western Cape Network on Disability, while also serving in her private capacity as a Board member of the Light & Healing Centre, which trains persons with visual impairment the art of aromatherapy massage.

Erica's husband is a bilateral cochlear implantee and also works in the disability sector.

Will Scott

In life, he wears many hats. Will lives with a disability and is an online entrepreneur. While these facts about him may be true, he would like to think that he is defined less by them and more by his choices and actions.

He always tells people that he has lived two lives. Will was born on 28 July 1973, and this was the beginning of his first life. In that iteration, he was able-bodied, ambitious, and hopelessly naïve. While practicing for the world championships in trampoline gymnastics, he suffered a spinal cord injury on 6 June 1990. This is when his second life began. Today, he is no less ambitious but, he would like to think, a little more sanguine regarding the challenges he takes up.

Will has tried many career paths over the years, but the one that stuck came along in 2011 with a request from a friend to build her NGO a Facebook following. As it turned out, just because he could do something did not mean that everyone could. Thus began his career in online marketing which has continued to this day. He has clients from many different industries, walks of life and professional

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pursuits. He is very proud to be able to say that he is a C4 quadriplegic white male, who is financially independent in South Africa. A country that has legislated against his consideration in the job market as of October 2013, even though upward of 7% disabled participation had been legislated for by the government in terms of employment equity. He has been successful in spite of the state, not because of it. This is something that he is very proud of.

Lois Strachan (Singer/Entertainer)

Lois Strachan describes herself as an ordinary person living an ordinary life. Some may disagree. She is the author of 5 books, is a professional motivational speaker, hosts an accessible travel podcast and is a sometime rock musician. And she is totally blind, having lost her sight at the age of 21 due to diabetic retinopathy.

Highlights of her 'ordinary' life include reaching No 1 on the South African rock music charts, being elected as District Governor of Toastmasters International Southern African district, and accidentally almost standing on Nelson Mandela's toes.

Her books include a series of illustrated children's books, "The Adventures of Missy Mouse", and the second edition of her narrative non-fiction "A Different Way of Seeing: A blind woman's journey of living an 'ordinary' life in an extraordinary way", which will be released in October 2020.

Lois lives in Cape Town, with her husband and a house full of dogs, one of whom is her guide dog, Fiji.

Rhodney van Staden – Entertainer

Rhodney van Staden comes from a small Karoo town called Prieska. His immediate family consists of six children. He is one of a set of twins and the only one born blind. Growing up in Prieska was very difficult for him because there was no school suitable to cater for his special needs as a person with a disability. His parents did not give up on him gaining an education as this would help him become more independent and fully integrated into society. His parents discovered the Athlone School for the Blind in Cape Town where he became a boarder living in the hostel.

Rhodney's talent for singing was discovered at the school in 1988 where he began to do most of the solo parts in musical pieces for the school choir. The year 1990 marked a new beginning for him. He was approached by the brass band teacher to take lessons to learn playing the saxophone. This really shaped him musically because this teacher became his mentor and also a father figure. Music enabled him to express himself in various ways and also gave him a sense of belonging. It also gave him the opportunity to be himself in his own space with confidence and without fear. The saxophone opened many doors as people started to acknowledge his talent and the rest, like they say, is history.

Rhodney was accepted to study at the University of the Western Cape and is currently completing his final year majoring in Psychology and History. His passion is to become a musician with a degree.

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