

## Young Scholars Colloquium

### Martin Van Staden – South Africa

Martin van Staden is a South African libertarian, jurist, and public policy commentator. Having obtained his LL.B (Bachelor of Laws) degree from the University of Pretoria in 2016, Martin has worked at the Free Market Foundation (FMF) as a legal researcher since January 2017. He is a co-author and editor of *Fallism: One Year of Rational Commentary*, as well as the principal co-author of *The Real Digital Divide: South Africa's Information and Communication Technologies Policy*, an FMF monograph. A passionate writer, Martin is the chief editor of two publications.

He joined *Being Libertarian*, a growing international hub for diverse opinions within the liberty movement, in late 2015 as its Editor in Chief, and established its Editorial Board. *Being Libertarian* is a product of Being Libertarian LLC, of which Martin is a director. Martin writes a weekly column, *The Chief's Thoughts*, for *Being Libertarian*.

Martin also co-founded the South African libertarian community Facebook page known as South African Libertarian (SAL). SAL's blog was later transformed into the *Rational Standard* (RS), of which Martin is also the Editor in Chief. The *Rational Standard* is a product of Rational Publications (Pty) Ltd, of which Martin is a director. Martin has been on the African Executive Board of Students for Liberty (SFL) since August 2015, and became a Young Voices Advocate in May 2017.

His articles have appeared in publications such as *Business Day*, *The Witness*, *The Star*, *The Saturday Star*, and *Rapport*, as well as online publications like *CNBC Africa*, *Rand Daily Mail*, *Cape Messenger*, and *Politics web*. He has also been interviewed on television networks like *Al Jazeera*, *eNews Channel Africa*, *Business Day TV*, and *kykNET*, as well as radio platforms such as *Radio Rosestad*, *SAFM*, *O.FM*, *Classic FM*, *Jacaranda FM*, *Talk Radio 702*, and *Pretoria FM*, and podcasts like *The Renegade Report*, *Dirk Scheepers Program*, *Touch Central*, and *Revolution Report Live*.

For more information visit [www.martinvanstaden.com](http://www.martinvanstaden.com)

### Evans Exaud – Tanzania

Evans Exaud is a young-motivated development practitioner with strong leadership abilities. He has spent years working with African Students for Liberty, Uhuru Initiatives for Policy and Education, business personalities, Organizations and other key development stakeholders. He is currently a Founder and Executive Director of Liberty Sparks and Local Coordinator with African Students for Liberty in Tanzania. He is a risk taker who embraces the core values of equality for all, individual rights,

integrity and growth. He joined the liberty movement following a conference by Students and Young Professional African Liberty Academy (SYPALA) in August 2010, and co-founded the African Liberty Students Organization-University of Dodoma Chapter serving as an Assistant Secretary General. He also served as Chairperson for Youths of the United Nations (YUNA) Dodoma chapter in 2011. He speaks, trains and organizes various Liberty events in Tanzania. Evans aspires to become a salient international development practitioner advocating for economic, social and environmental well-being for all.

### **Linus Unah – Nigeria**

Linus Unah is a freelance journalist based in Lagos, Nigeria. His stories have been published in: The Guardian, IRIN News, The Development Set, NPR, The Christian Science Monitor and Financial Times' This is Africa, African Arguments, among others.

He writes about global health, conflict, technology, agriculture and development.

He graduated from the University of Nigeria's Department of Mass Communication in July 2016, and was the winner of last year's Rising Tide Foundation Essay Contest for African Undergraduates managed by African Liberty Organisation for Development (ALOD) and supported by Network for a Free Society.

### **Waga Odongo – Kenya**

Waga Odongo is interested in digital currencies particularly their use as a new type of asset class. He hopes that they can allow more people to participate in trade across the globe.

Waga holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Actuarial Science from the University of Nairobi. He has worked as a Science editor at the Daily Nation and wrote a column for the same paper for six years. He currently serves as Content Manager for InformAction, a non-governmental organisation dealing with human rights.

### **Claude Kamau Mwangi –Kenya**

Claude Kamau graduated with a law degree this year (2017) from Strathmore University, and is presently working as a Graduate Assistant with the Strathmore Law School, a post that mainly entails academic research and assisting in the teaching of core (undergraduate) law subjects.

.He have previously been the senior editor and, subsequently peer review editor for the Strathmore Law Review, a peer-reviewed student law journal of which he was also a founding member. He has had a brief stint in the corporate sector as an intern at Centum Investment Company Limited. He is also a junior fellow at the Strathmore Centre for Law and Policy, with a keen interest in law and justice, legal and political philosophy, family law and distributive justice especially in relation to land. He has,

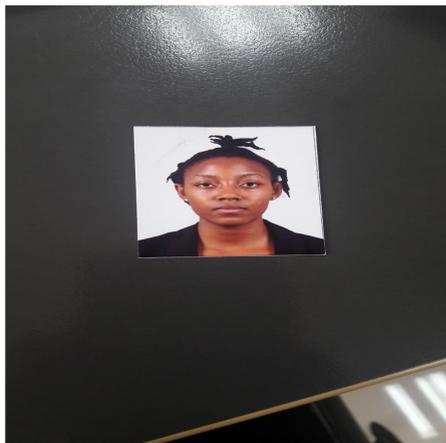
to this effect, published a paper titled, “Transitional Justice as a Path to Distributive Justice: A Legal and Jurisprudential Case for Land Redistribution in Kenya,” which compares John Rawls’ political philosophy to the land question in Kenya and proposes solutions to the latter. His dissertation research topic was titled, “The Role of the State in the Progressive Realisation of the Right to Adequate Housing in Kenya: An Assessment of the Minimum Core Concept.”

### **Michelle Malonza – Kenya**

Michelle Malonza, is a Second Year Law student at Strathmore University, currently an Associate Editor on the board of the Strathmore Law Review, a position owing to his reapplication after serving as an Editorial Assistant during the first year of his degree. This position has exposed him to several issues both within and outside the legal field, which continue to spark his interest, market economy being one of them.

He is an avid reader and very eager to learn more about economic freedom and the market economy, also interested in interacting with other younger scholars to have intellectual discussions on the given topic. He looks forward to not only get the chance to interact regionally, but also to learn and understand their different perspectives on different issues.

He also loves to write both creatively and academically and has a very keen interest on issues pertaining to the development of Africa. His areas of interest include human rights, philosophy, governance and policy making. He also hopes to be able to read and make meaningful contributions to these and other topics during this colloquium.



### **Gloria Koe – Kenya**

Gloria Koe is an aspiring champion of public policy and its formulation to enhance good governance. Empathy and philanthropy are both qualities she embodies in the epitome of the perfect self and the voyage to a said perfection. As she puts it, that a

journey of a thousand miles begins with a step, and she confidently asserts that she has taken strides towards the aforementioned.

She is currently studying law at Strathmore University in Nairobi and engages in a plethora of activities to the above mentioned declaration. To illustrate, she has participated in 'food drives' to remote and desolate regions of Kenya, such as Lodwar, attended several Model United Nations programs, and actively engaged in the university's law clinic. She has a conviction that, whilst the aspirations may seem narrow, they are to be perceived as a sign of clarity and focus to an individual's goals and polishing of the self image.



**Frank Raudo \_ Kenya**

Frank Raudo is taking his final year studies in Law at Strathmore University Nairobi. He has developed a keen interest in International Law, Comparative Law, Humanitarian Land Human Rights Law, Sports Law and Alternative Dispute Resolution. He envisions gravitating into policy and dispute resolution in his professional career with a particular interest in telling the African story.

He is inspired by Thomas Hobbes in regard to the Law being the Public Conscience and which has played a role in his involvement to bridge the gap between the interaction of the Law and Society. To that effect he co-founded a platform called Ishara, an online forum where Law Students and the Public engage with societal issues that could be addressed by the law or otherwise. It is a peer reviewed platform that utilities blogs, videography articles and photography in reaching its objectives.

In addition to the above, he is also a student athlete; a current co-captain in his varsity Athletics team, another sphere where he has been privileged to serve and interact with a wide spectrum of people. That is part of the impetus that has fired his passion for

developing sound policies in the Sports Law sphere to enable Africa to efficiently exploit its talent.

### **Bekit Teklemariam –Eritrea**

Teklemariam Bekit is a PhD student of Psychology and part-time lecturer at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa. He is the founder of Eritrean Students for Liberty which he formed in 2015 to reach out to the Eritrean and Ethiopian Refugees and Immigrants living in Kenya.

On 24th June, 2017 Bekit hosted a full day seminar on “Liberty & Free Society from the Eritrean Perspective.” The Seminar was hosted at the Tangaza University, Nairobi Kenya and attracted 42 participants from the Eritrean, Kenyan and the South Sudanese communities. Presentations were made on Freedom and the Role of Government, The Institution of a Free Society and Toleration by various speakers among them Teklemariam Bekit, Linda Kavuka, Andreas and Rita Mazzocchi.

Through his hard work and efforts, what began as a gathering of 7, has now grown to a full room of participants due to the insights and discourses shared at the forums and the revelations about the situation in Eritrea currently ignored by Africa and the rest of the world.

### **Linda Whetstone – UK**

Linda Whetstone is the chairperson of [Network for a Free Society](#) and serves on the boards of the [Institute of Economic Affairs](#), the [Istanbul Network for Liberty](#), and British Dressage, where she chairs the Judges Committee and is a team selector. Previously, she served as the chairperson of International Policy Network and a director of the [Mont Pelerin Society](#). She runs a small business in England with her husband Francis and has written on agricultural and development issues. Her father was the late Sir Antony Fisher, Atlas Network’s founder.



### **Alex Njeru – Kenya**

Alex is an associate editor of African Liberty.org and is a team member of the same organization's (Voice of Liberty Africa) VOLA program; a dedicated syndicate program that profiles and mainstreams the ideas of young Africans in the policy making process across Africa. He is a freedom market advocate and has used various platforms to advocate for free market oriented policies and the institutionalization of the rule of law as a panacea to the under-development challenges that Africa faces.

He provides a regular commentary on local and international television platforms regarding issues such as Governance and economic policy. Alex sat on the Executive board of African Students for Liberty where he serves as the Director of Academic Programs. His research interests include Free market, business and regulation policy.

He was the project leader of the Caravan of Liberty – Kenya, a dedicated public education program targeting university students, aimed at deepening the understanding of cause and effect in the economic policy making process in Kenya.



### **Steve Davie – UK**

Dr. Stephen Davies is education director at the Institute of Economic Affairs in London and program officer at the [Institute for Humane Studies](#). Previously, Dr. Davies was a senior lecturer in the Department of History and Economic History at Manchester Metropolitan University in Manchester, England. He has also been a visiting scholar at the Social Philosophy and Policy Center at Bowling Green State University, Ohio. A historian, he graduated from St. Andrews University in Scotland in 1976 and gained his PhD from the same institution in 1984. He has authored several books, including *Empiricism and History*, and was co-editor with Nigel Ashford of *The Dictionary of Conservative and Libertarian Thought*.

### **Aimable Manirakiza - Burundi**

Aimable Manirakiza has a degree in International Relations and very soon will hold a Bachelor's degree in Political Science Geostrategic at the Light University of Bujumbura. Aimable is passionate about freedom through peaceful social change in his country since the crisis that shook Burundi in 2015. Aimable was enamored by libertarian ideas when participating for the first at the second conference of the ASFL in KENYA in May 2015. Aimable founded SFL Burundi in 2016 with 10 SFL Clubs in 10 Universities. Aimable currently helps to promote the ideas of a free society in Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Togo and other francophone African countries.

### **John Mugabi Socrates - Uganda**

John Mugabi through his personal efforts, has created a community of passionate Leaders for Liberty in Uganda. He is now the main point of contact for the organization in the country, and has hosted several events this far where he introduced the Ideas and encouraged the students to join Students For Liberty. Through his leadership, over 10 campus groups have been created in several universities in Uganda.

John recently hosted a liberty convention at the Kyambogo University, Uganda where students came together to discuss the ideas of liberty, entrepreneurship, the rule of law, and big versus small government among other interesting topics.



**Linda Kavuka \_ Kenya**

Linda began promoting the Ideas of Liberty in 2013 on joining SFL as a Charter Teams Member. She was later accepted to the Inaugural African Executive Board in 2014, serving as Regional Director for East Africa where she helped to launch SFL in the region. She served as chair of the African Executive Board in 2015 and is the host of the annual Eastern African Regional Conference. On behalf of African Students For Liberty Kenya, Linda was selected to represent the youth interest in the project ,” *Fostering Issue Based Political Dialogue in Kenya towards the 2017 General Elections,*” a project in partnership with Liberal Alliance Denmark, Kenya Association of Manufacturers and Eastern African Policy Centre (January 2016 – November 2017.) Linda completed a Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Nairobi and the Advocates Training Program from the Kenya School of Law. She is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya, and previously practiced law at Muma and Kanjama Advocates. Linda recently joined Students For Liberty as staff and is the current African Programs Manager.



### **Peter Bismark \_ Ghana**

Mr. Peter Bismark Kwofie is a professionally trained teacher with a diploma from the Presbyterian college of Education, Akropong Akwapem, a college founded in 1848 in the eastern part of Ghana by the British during the colonization. He is also a graduate from the University of Education Winneba, with a Bachelor's of Education. Mr. Kwofie taught in the public schools for four years and later took the risk and opted out to be an entrepreneur.

In October, 2012, he started BISMANN REMEDIAL COLLEGE in Tema to assist high school graduates who could not pass their mathematics and science examinations. He also served as the academic head of Smart View International School, 2015-2016.

Mr. Kwofie was the HIV/AIDS coordinator from 2009-2012 when he was in the public school. From the experience gathered over the years, he has lectured entrepreneurship on a number of youth conference platforms both in Ghana and across Africa. He has a *certificate in Think Tanking* from the Atlas Network and a graduate from the *Atlas Leadership Academy*.

Mr. Kwofie is a co-founder of two organizations in Ghana and Sierra Leone: Tema Young Entrepreneurs (TYE) in Tema, and a pro-liberty organization; Centre for Agriculture and policy development respectively (CAPD) in Sierra Leone. He frequently analyzes policies and comments on social, political, economic, and educational issues in the media (Radio, newspaper, TV etc).

Mr. Kwofie won the **2017 Africa Think Tank Shark Tank AWARD in South Africa**, organized by Atlas Network of USA beating unknown number of organizations in Africa. He was among the great pro-liberty speakers at the Africa Liberty Forum in South Africa on EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION ON LIBERTY and currently the Executive Director and president of the INSTITUTE FOR LIBERTY AND POLICY INNOVATION (ILAPI-GHANA), Free Market Research and Advocacy organization.

## **Oluwafemi Ogunjobi \_ Nigeria**

Oluwafemi Ogunjobi graduated from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria in 2014, and is a committed advocate for liberty. He came across Students For Liberty in Lagos, Nigeria, through Alexander McCobin who gave him one of Tom Palmer's books: *'Politicians, Dependence, and The Bubble That Broke The World Economy'*. There, he invited him to the 2013 West African Students For Liberty Regional Conference at the University of Ibadan.

He co-founded a chapter of African Liberty Students Organization (ALSO) alongside four colleagues in campus. He has helped in spreading the ideas of liberty through frequent articles in national dailies and international blogs, and also through discussion panels and book fairs.

A freelance journalist and Editor, he is Nigeria's Correspondent to Commonwealth, where he shares ideas with young minds from across Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe and the Pacific. Ogunjobi, a Young Voices Advocate, is also a Guest Contributor on World Review, a global media that provides analysis and insights on world affairs, written by leading global experts in politics, economics, defense & security and energy.



## **Olumayowa Okediran \_ Nigeria**

Olumayowa Okediran is a Nigerian socio-economic and political commentator, nonprofit consultant and entrepreneur. Olumayowa's articles and views on politics and economics have appeared in The Huffington Post, Nigerian Tribune, The Nation Newspaper, Libre Afrique and World Review and his articles have been translated into French, Spanish and Portuguese. In 2013 he founded [African Students For Liberty](#) and is currently Students For Liberty's Assistant Director of International Programs.

He holds a Masters degree in Humanitarian and Refugee Studies from the University of Ibadan in Nigeria and is a graduate of the Think Tank MBA program from

the [Atlas Network](#) in the United States. He is currently the African Programs Manager for [Students For Liberty](#). He has served as Policy analyst at [Ineng](#) since July 2015 and a Policy Fellow at the South African Institute of Race Relations since 2016.



### **Phumlani M. Majazi**

Phumlani M. Majazi is a business analyst, a geopolitics analyst, a resident political analyst on Early Breakfast Show on Cape Talk Radio, and contributor on Radio702. Currently, he's a contributor on *News24 Voices* – where he writes about South Africa's political and economic issues.

Phumlani is also a policy fellow and member of the council at the South African Institute of Race Relations. He also sits on the boards of three organizations: Independent Entrepreneurship Group (Ineng), Free Market Foundation South Africa (where he is also a youth coordinator), and Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse (OUTA).



### **Emeka Ezeugo\_ Nigeria**

Emeka is the founder of the African Christians for Liberty, the first Christian Libertarian think tank in Africa, whose mission is to promote peace in Africa through the advocacy of freedom and tolerance from the Christian perspective. He has previously worked for Students for Liberty as the African Programs Associate, contributing to the tremendous growth the organization has recorded in Africa, including the francophone regions in the continent. Emeka holds a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations and as an undergraduate, he organized and participated in Model United Nations conferences during which he honed his leadership and people skills. He became interested in the promoting the ideas of liberty in 2011 after studying *The Road To Serfdom* by F.A Hayek, a gift from his good friend Olumayowa Okediran.

### **Josephine Namatovu**

