



South African Institute for Advanced Constitutional, Public, Human Rights & International Law

NEWSLETTER July 2005

1. SAIFAC LAUNCH

SAIFAC's formal launch function will take place on the evening of 9 September 2005. The launch has been planned to coincide with the 14th African Human Rights Moot Court Competition organized by the University of Pretoria, and hosted this year by the University of Johannesburg. See http://www.chr.up.ac.za/centre_projects/mootcourt/mootcourt.html

2. DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

Mr George Mukundi, the first of four SAIFAC doctoral fellows to arrive in South Africa, commenced research at the beginning of June. Mr Mukundi, who holds an LL.M in Human Rights and Democratisation from the University of Pretoria, came to SAIFAC from The Gambia, where he was working for the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. His LL.D thesis proposal on 'Protecting land and resource rights of indigenous peoples in Africa' has been accepted by the University of Pretoria. The remaining doctoral fellows are expected to begin their studies by the end of July 2005.

3. SAIFAC OFFICES

The refurbishment of SAIFAC's first three offices next door to the Coffee Shop in the Old Fort was completed at the end of January 2005. The offices include a common room with two fully equipped 'hot seats' for visiting researchers. See the photographs on our web site at www.saifac.org.za. The refurbishment of four further offices in the main part of the Old Fort was completed at the the end of June 2005.

4. VISITORS TO SAIFAC

SAIFAC was pleased to host the following academic visitors during the first half of 2005:

- Prof. Cheryl Saunders (University of Melbourne);
- Prof. Paul Rishworth (University of Auckland);
- Dr Liora Lazarus (St Anne's College, Oxford); and
- Prof. Martin Scheinin (Institute for Human Rights, Åbo Akademi University, Finland). SAIFAC also assisted the new Chief Rabbi of South Africa, Dr Warren Goldstein, in accessing the Constitutional Court library for purposes of researching his forthcoming book, *Defending the Human Spirit*.

5. NEW MEMBER OF STAFF

Ms Tsitsi Mugadza commenced work on 1 May 2005 as Personal Assistant to the Director. Ms Mugadza previously worked as PA to the CEO of the Human Sciences Research Council.

6. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

SAIFAC staff undertook the following public engagements during the first half of the year:

- seminar on 'Judging transformation: the relevance of legal theory to South Africa after 1994' (University of the Witwatersrand Medical School, 27 January);



OLD FORT ENTRANCE

ON THE SAIFAC WEB SITE
(www.saifac.org.za)

APPLICATIONS:

SAIFAC's PhD studentship Programme
www.saifac.org.za/phd.html

SAIFAC's Sabbatical Programme
www.saifac.org.za/programmes.html



HOTSEAT



COMMON ROOM

CONTACT:

Tel: +27 11 339 1168 /78
Fax: +27 11 339 1167

Tsitsi Mugadza:
tsitsi@saifac.org.za

George Mukundi:
mukundi@saifac.org.za

Theunis Roux:
theunis@saifac.org.za

PO Box 84666, Greenside,
2034, South Africa



VIEW TOWARDS HILLBROW



TSITSI AT HER DESK



OLD FORT COFFEE SHOP



THEUNIS OUTSIDE SAIFAC



THEUNIS WITH IACL
CONFERENCE ORGANISER
PROF ANTONIO MARIA HERNANDEZ

- guest column for the Financial Mail on judicial transformation (21 January 2005);
- postgraduate seminar on '*Aspects of the Law Relating to Property Management*' (University of the Witwatersrand, 5 May 2005);
- guest lecture on '*Indigenous Peoples' Rights in Africa*' (University of Pretoria LLM in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa, 6 June 2005)
- guest lecture on '*Property Rights Protection in South Africa and Other Commonwealth Countries*' (University of Pretoria LLM in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa, 9 June 2005)

7. RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

An article by the Director on the performance of the South African Land Claims Court was published in (2004) Part 4 of the South African Journal on Human Rights.

(Read the article at wwwserver.law.wits.ac.za/sajhr/2004/roux.pdf)

Other research currently being conducted at SAIFAC includes:

- paper on '*The Constitutional Framework and the Deepening of Democracy in South Africa*' for the Open Society Institute Africa Governance Monitoring and Advocacy Project (AfriMAP);
- paper on '*The Enforcement of the Recommendations of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights*' to be delivered in August 2005 at the Institute for Human Rights, Åbo Akademi University, Finland; and
- the editing, with Pilar Domingo and Roberto Gargarella, of a collection of papers on the social transformation role of courts.

8. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

- SAIFAC has entered into an agreement with the Centre for Human Rights in terms of which the Director will assist with the editing of the second edition of Chaskalson et al *Constitutional Law of South Africa*.
- SAIFAC and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute in Lund, Sweden, have agreed to co-operate with each other in various ways, including reciprocal research visits and information sharing.
- SAIFAC has agreed to support the Southern Africa Litigation Centre in assisting lawyers involved in public interest litigation to conduct research at the Constitutional Court library.

9. AUDIT

PriceWaterhouseCoopers has completed its audit of SAIFAC's accounts for the financial year ending February 2005. The audit was unqualified.

10. BOARD MEETING

The third meeting of SAIFAC's Board of Trustees was held at the Old Fort, Constitution Hill, on 8 April 2005.

11. INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

The Director attended a meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Association of Constitutional Law (IACL) in Córdoba, Argentina, on 23 June 2005. The meeting coincided with a conference on *Constitutionalism in Times of Emergency* organised by Prof. Antonio María Hernández of the National University of Córdoba.