

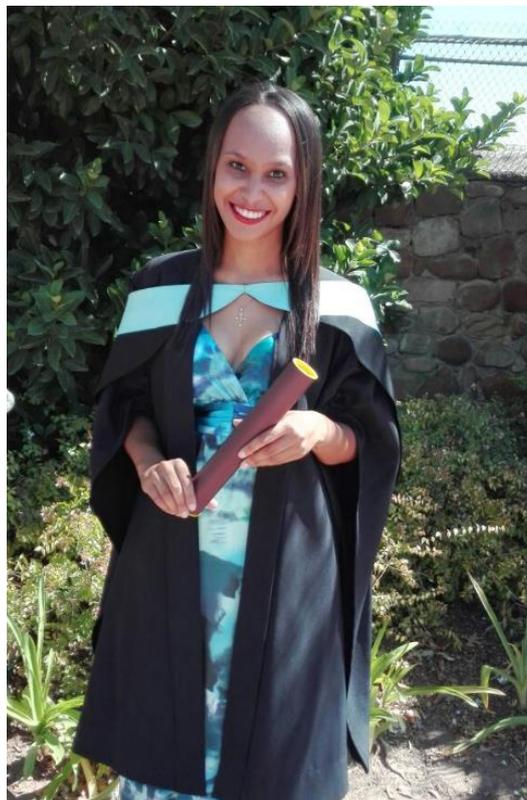
## Reflections by Dr Lyndon Bouah

A few weeks ago I travelled to Johannesburg to participate in the PSS Rapid event. At the event I had the opportunity to interact with many of the chess players. One of the things that struck me afterwards was that many chessplayers did not continue their further studies after Matric. Many players simply continued to play and coach chess without furthering their studies.

I spoke to Grandmaster Amanotov and he agreed that it is important that chessplayers continue their further studies if they wish to progress within their chess career at a high level. If one looks at the various world champions one note that in the old days many top level players continued their studies and graduated with honours. According to various autobiographies grandmaster Botvinnik was an engineer, Grandmaster Euwe was a Mathematics lecturer and the other grandmasters and world champions had an assortment of professions. Interestingly GM Amanotov pointed out that although Bobby Fischer left school at 16, he taught himself Russian and other languages and was widely read. (As an aside, Fischer was at the same school as Barbara Streisand during the same period).

Over the last few months a number of chessplayers across the country have graduated and I believe we should celebrate these successes so that they can serve as examples for all of us.

The first graduate this year was Tiffany Agulhas. Tiffany is the daughter of Marcelle and Henry Agulhas. Marcelle is the secretary of Chessa. Tiffany has been playing for a long time and won the SA Closed B (woman) section in 2015. She is currently organising the residents' chess league of the University of Stellenbosch. She graduated with her B.Comm Law degree in March 2017.



In March 2017 Rebecca Selkirk from East London graduated cum laude with B.Comm Honours Degree in Economics at the University of Stellenbosch. Rebecca has been playing at University level and represented South Africa at Fasu and has competed at the SA Closed in 2013. This year 2017 she has started competing again and is seeking to secure a place at the December 2017 SA Closed.



At the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) Shaheed Tobias is the chairperson of the NMMU Chess Club. He hails from Sancto, Bethelsdorp in Nelson Mandela Bay. Chess has been part of his whole life and he enjoys recording blitz and posting it on You Tube. He completed his BA Degree in Arts and is currently continuing with his honours.



In March 2017 Shaun Willenberg graduated from the Cape University of Technology (CPUT) with a degree in Project Management. Shaun is the secretary of Steinitz Chess club and loves his chess. He works as an Analyser Technician at the Chevron refinery in Cape Town.



In April 2017 SA Women's chess champion Denise Frick graduated with a doctorate at the University of Pretoria. She concentrated on sport psychology and is an expert on habits, mindfulness and values. She lives in Cape Town and comes from Pretoria.



Please send me some more inspiring stories to [Lyndon.Bouah@gmail.com](mailto:Lyndon.Bouah@gmail.com)

Regards  
Dr Lyndon Bouah