

University of Cape Town



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George Philander is a South African scientist who became world renown not only for his scientific accomplishments but for his independent thinking and his writing skills. George Philander reminds me of the philosopher and mathematicians of the Age of Enlightenment who were also very good mathematicians, chemists or physicists but also mighty with the pen. He came back to South Africa after years of exile to work at University of Cape Town as NRF Chair of Ocean Atmosphere modelling but his goal was to establish a multidisplinary program of science and education, the ACCESS program. As part of ACCESS the “How to build an habitable planet” workshop is a very successful workshop still going strong whose aim is to convince undergraduate Africa to stay in science and further their education. Many African students have also benefited from ACCESS bursaries of the years.

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