

Unit GR05, Brookside Office Park, 11 Lansdowne Road, Claremont, 7700  
Tel: + 27 21 683 5814 | Fax: +27 21 674 6328 | [www.africagenome.com](http://www.africagenome.com)

## NEWSLETTER Issue # 6

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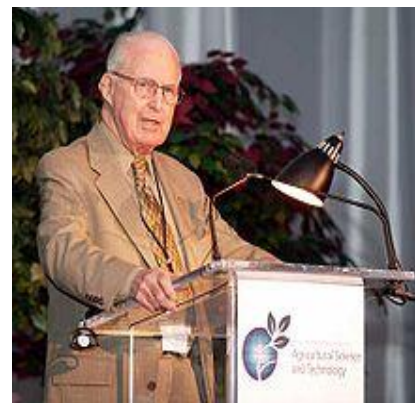
### "Norman is the greatest human being, and you've probably never heard of him."

Written by Gavin Chait

Norman Borlaug, the father of the "Green Revolution", winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 and celebrated by Time magazine in 1999 as one of the 100 most influential minds of the 20th century, died at his home in Dallas on 12 September 2009 from lymphoma.

In a cerebral interview in the Economist in 2007, Borlaug pointed out that global cereal production tripled between 1950 and 2000, but the amount of land used increased by only 10%. Using traditional techniques such as crop rotation, compost and manure to supply the soil with nitrogen and other minerals would have required a tripling of the area under cultivation. The more intensively you farm, Mr Borlaug contended, the more room you have left for rainforest.

In the 1960s India hadn't yet recovered from the Bengal Famine which left 3 million dead. Indian farmers in the 1960s produced only 12 million tons of wheat annually; significantly less than their population required. In 1965 M.S. Swaminathan, C. Subramaniam and B. P. Pal, along with Dr Borlaug introduced the use of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides to the subcontinent. Today India is a net exporter producing some 200 million tons of grain a year.



Read more... <http://www.africagenome.com/genetic-politics/qnorman-is-the-greatest-human-being-and-youve-probably-never-heard-of-himq.html>

### Charles Stewart Mott Foundation showcases the Africa Genome Education Institute on their website

We are delighted to share the following news, sent to us by Maggie Jaruzel-Potter, Communications Officer of the 'Mott Foundation', USA!

"This is a quick note to let you know that the homepage of the Mott Foundation's website <http://www.mott.org> has highlighted your organization today in our daily News Log section ["More than skin deep" 22 September] <http://www.mott.org/news/mottnewslog.aspx>

In addition, the information has been posted on our Race and Reconciliation Issue Page.

<http://www.mott.org/ourissues/Race%20and%20Reconciliation.aspx>

Finally, the news also was posted on Mott's Facebook page.

<http://www.facebook.com/mottfoundation>



These are all small ways for Mott to draw attention to the valuable work your organization is doing".

### Darwin Trail Launched

The Darwin Trail Map has been produced to enable you to follow the route that Charles Darwin took when he visited Cape Town. This easy to consult publication is the perfect companion for those that enjoy history, hiking and heritage.



The map was launched at Stellenbosch University using their Interactive Telematic Technology system to broadcast via satellite to ten schools: Aloe Secondary, Sinethemba Secondary, Manyano High School, Perseverance Secondary, Ashton Secondary, Desmond Tutu Secondary, Noorder Paarl Sec, Mandlenkosi Secondary, Naphakade Secondary and Albert Myburgh Secondary.

Introduced by MEC for Education Donald Grant, the schools heard the story of Charles Darwin's visit as the trail was brought to life by Dr Wilmot James MP and anthropologist Nonhlanhla Dlamini.

Dr James, who is a DA MP and Shadow Minister for Higher Education & Training initiated the Trail project as part of the Africa Genome Education Institute Darwin200 celebrations: a project to create greater awareness of Darwin's legacy.

The Darwin Trail provides a wonderful journey through some amazing landscapes and to a range of significant sites and sights. It also provides an opportunity for re-assessing what Darwin's visit contributed to his work and ultimately to his major contribution to modern science.

The map will be available from Cape Town Tourism, Tourism Bureaux, Iziko Museums, MTN Sciencentre or can be collected from the Africa Genome Education Institute.

Enquiries 021 683 5814

Visit [www.africagenome.com](http://www.africagenome.com), [www.capetown.travel](http://www.capetown.travel)

### Review on Skin movie written by Beryl Eichenberger

Heritage day saw the screening of "Skin'- the movie', as part of the Tri - Continents Film Festival. Beautifully and sensitively portrayed, the movie traces the true story of Sandra Laing.

It highlights the complete absurdity of the laws at the time and the humiliation that other race groups endured. It also brings in the subject of genetics and, that such a phenomenon of this brown child born to white parents could be explained as a genetic throwback (a subject that teachers will be discussing at the Teaching Biology Project workshop).

The indignity of forced removals, lives ruined, violence and appalling living standards are vividly shown and truly humbled this privileged viewer. Anthony Fabian must be congratulated on a film that, whilst not missing the horrors of the period, focuses on the indomitable spirit of a young woman whose life was forced to take a different path than her parents. Highly recommended! It should be prescribed viewing for all South Africans – lest we forget ...