



SAEP Gap Year Interns 2008



Ntabeleng Qokela

Ntabeleng, a native of Philippi, graduated from Zisukhanyo High School in 2007. Hardworking and determined, Ntabeleng applied to tertiary institutions in 2007 after passing her matric but was not successful. She joined SAEP because she wanted to re-write some of her exams to improve her scores and enhance her chances of getting into university.

Ntabeleng succeeded and has enrolled to study biotechnology at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology in 2009.

Her community service at SAEP has been working in one of the sixteen pre-schools that SAEP supports, where she has made a significant contribution.

Mbulelo Zatu

Mbulelo was extremely active at Zisukhanyo Senior Secondary School in Samora Machel. In addition to his academic studies, he participated in the South African Youth Minister Program, the RCL (learners committee), and represented Zisukhanyo in the provincial debating competition -- a part of the Township Debating League. Twice he auditioned to be a part of the prestigious Western Province debating team. A dedicated student, Mbulelo was extremely disappointed when he was unable to attend a university after matriculating from Zisukhanyo in 2007.



His hard work at SAEP has been rewarded by acceptance to study for a BA in International Relations at the University of Pretoria. This will fulfil both his ambitions of studying economics and politics at the international level, and of becoming more independent while seeing the world outside Cape Town

“SAEP has made me even surer about my goals and I’m happy about my career because I think I’m going to enjoy it”, says Mbulelo.



Selloane Matli

Selloane, originally from Kimberley, graduated from Fezeka High School in Guguletu in 2007. She changed schools frequently while growing up, spending time in 3 different primary schools and 2 different high schools.

She is hardworking and purpose-driven, and her qualities as a good “people person” should drive her on the way of excellence in the career she has chosen, tourism management. She improved all of her results when she rewrote her matric exams while at SAEP. "In the next five years, I hope to continue studying and improving my subjects, in order to become highly qualified in any field I pursue," she says. **Selloane has been admitted to study Tourism Management at the University of**

the Western Cape but is considering other study options as well.

She writes: “I have grown personally and have become more responsible and aware of what I want in life.”

Luyanda Mohajana

Luyanda graduated from Oscar Mpetha High School in Nyanga East in 2007. An extremely hard worker, Luyanda excelled in high school while holding down a job as a packer at a local Shoprite department store in order to help support his family.

Luyanda is strongly committed to community service and has been active in the New Crossroads township through his church. "I think it's my passion to help those in need that makes it easy for me to work with people," he says.

He is a strong student of geography and hopes to take a degree in tourism management. One day he would like to start his own travel and tourism company. **He has been accepted to do a preparatory year in Tourism Management at the University of the Western Cape in 2009.**

"Being a part of SAEP is the first step to my success and I'm proud of being part of such an influential and helpful program," says Luyanda.



Zingaphi Phindani

Zingaphi, originally from Philippi, graduated from New Eisleben High School in 2006. She used her love of language as an active participant in the Township Debating League during her school years.

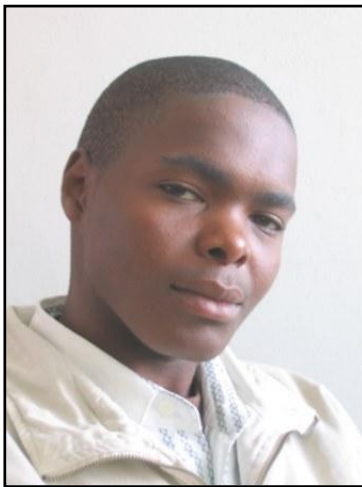
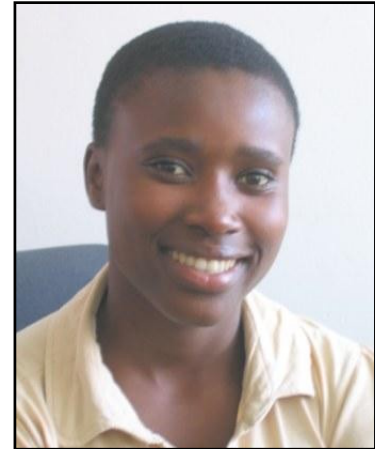
Zingaphi hopes to study Tourism Management at a tertiary institution and eventually own a tourism agency. **She has been accepted to do a Preparatory Year in Tourism Management at the University of the Western Cape and to study Tourism/Hospitality at Cape Peninsula University of Technology.** She has not yet decided which course she will enroll for.

Zingaphi says, "I am interested in Tourism because I like to travel and I'm curious about knowing all the places in the world. I want to convince other people about the beauty of the world."

Mphokazi Qinisile

Mphokazi, a native of the Western Cape, graduated from Oscar Mpetha High School in 2007. Since Mphokazi was a small child, she has had the dream of becoming a business woman. She has worked hard throughout her schooling in pursuit of this goal. She hopes to one day own a company and a car. Mphokazi would like to study marketing, retail management, or advertising. **She has applied to study Marketing at UWC, CPUT, and TSiBA and will be job-shadowing later this year at ADT Security Company.**

"I'm very lucky to be involved in this programme, and I'm grateful to the SAEP Programme for giving me this huge opportunity to develop my skills and help me to improve my community," says Mphokazi about her involvement in SAEP.



Thobela Sotshantsha

Due to the lack of jobs and educational opportunities in Thobela's Eastern Cape home village, Thobela left his village in 2005 to move in with his brother in Cape Town. At the time, he knew very little English. Thobela is charismatic and incredibly hard working. He enjoys acting and knows four indigenous African languages in addition to English, Afrikaans and some French.

Thobela is interested in nature conservation, especially marine biology, as well as electrical engineering. Since his matric results will not permit him to study in either of these fields, **he is seeking a learnership in technical support with ADT Security where he can put his interest in electricity to good**

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He is amazingly dedicated to improve the condition of his community. For his SAEP community service project, he has started his own project in a primary school in Samora Machel teaching English to Grade 7 learners. This has been very successful and he has involved several other ga year interns.

"SAEP was like when I wake up in the morning: open the windows and see the light of a new day", Thobela says.

Letsekang Nyai

Letsekang comes to SAEP from Fezeka High School in Gugulethu. Due in large part to a less-than-supportive home environment, her high school grades were not what she had hoped for. Despite her hardships, Letsekang was well respected both by her classmates who voted her into the student government and her teachers who awarded her with the "Hardest Working" certificate.

Letsekang excels at languages and sciences, particularly biology. She hopes to pursue a career in biotechnology or pathology at **UWC** or **UNISA**. The second option would allow her to work part time to finance her studies. Her applications to these institutions are still pending.



She is strongly committed to SAEP's program and says, "I'm glad to be an intern at SAEP because I receive their support and love. Now I have a shoulder to cry on which is SAEP and I enjoy being around them daily."



Zanele James

Zanele matriculated from Gardens Commercial High School in 2007. She was introduced to SAEP by her uncle, Nezile Ntutha, who was a 2004 SAEP Gap Year Intern.

She has played a special role in SAEP's gap year programme in 2008, working full time in the Early Childhood Development programme, where she has made a significant contribution not only in office administration but also in working with the crèche principals and international volunteers in the ECD programme.

Zanele enjoys office administration and accounting. In 2009, she needs to work to contribute to her family's support, so hopes to do a learnership in office administration that will provide some income while enabling her to gain additional skills and consider tertiary options.

Mfanelo Stemele

In 2007, Mfanelo graduated from Zisukhanyo High School in Samora Machel. Mfanelo is a vocal, hardworking person. While in high school, he excelled in debating, but decided to give it up in grade 10 so that he could focus on his matric studies.

Mfanelo enjoys music and reading. He says, "Music is life and life is music." He is very close to his family, who have supported him throughout his schooling.

In the future, Mfanelo hopes to become a nature conservationist. He is presently participating in the Gap Year Programme to learn more about the opportunities offered by this sector and meet interesting people through job shadowing who could mentor him in his future studies and involvement with nature.



Sivuyile Dyonase

Sivuyile is originally from the Eastern Cape. He moved with his family to Cape Town in 1998 in hopes of attaining a better education. Unfortunately, Sivuyile was plagued with health problems during his first three years in Cape Town and was unable to attend school.

Fortunately, he was able to make some friends who encouraged him to return to school and graduated from Zisukhanyo High School, where he studied mathematics and physical science.

Sivuyile would like to study some form of journalism or media studies at the university level. In addition to his academic pursuits, Sivuyile has honed skills in music and film. He helped make a short film at the University of Cape Town in 2006 as part of a special course offered during the holidays. He has applied to **UWC** and **CPUT**.

Sivuyile has dedicated a lot of his time at SAEP to the community service through the SAEP Film clubs which gave him a lot of self confidence in what he was doing , and he was also given the opportunity to explore new fields through job shadowing.

Mziwekhaya "Jozef" Duba

Jozef, originally from the Eastern Cape, moved to the crime-ridden township of Philippi as a small child. As with all children who grow up in the townships, Jozef has faced many hardships. Despite immense difficulties, Jozef has worked hard to improve his life. He is already a successful entrepreneur and businessman, owning a small fruit and vegetable stand and a carwash with some of his friends.

Jozef wants to study sound, film or IT engineering. He hopes his experiences with the community service (the SAEP High School Film Clubs) will pass on his passion about music and cinema to his learners.



Jozef says of his involvement in SAEP, "I am very happy that I had the opportunity to join the SAEP Gap Year Programme before going to University. It has showed me more of my inner being." A sick father and family financial needs required Jozef to drop out of the programme in August to drive a township taxi during the week to earn money to support his family. He still hopes one day to pursue his dream of studying at university.