

28 March 2009

BY EMAIL

Friends of the Mandela Rhodes Foundation (USA), Inc.
Attention: Marietted Geldenhys

Re: Grants to SAEP for Gap Year Internship Program

Dear Directors:

Herewith an update on the new 2009 cohort of interns (we have fifteen this year) and where the 2008 cohort are today. Note that we have recently changed the name from "Gap Year" to "Bridging Year" in response to the comment of one potential donor that "gap year" sounds like a "nice thing to do, but not something essential." The program is in fact a bridging program to tertiary education, so there's a lot to be said for calling it just that.

2009 Cohort. Their profiles and photos are attached in the first attachment. They are the strongest class academically we have ever had. Almost half of them earned the qualification for university on their matric exams but chose to take a preparatory year with SAEP rather than going directly to university.

We have put together the most intensive academic and skills development program we have ever had. It is organized and supervised by our first paid coordinator for the program, Jane Cruywagen, a South African graduate of Rhodes University in English and Journalism. She launched the program this year with a five-day Outward Bound Program, which was extremely successful

Twelve of the fifteen are rewriting the matric exams at the end of the year based on the "new" FET curriculum. Three, who matriculated in 2007 under the "old" curriculum, will be rewriting in May and June.

2008 Cohort. Of the eleven interns who completed the program (out of 14 accepted), ten are now studying at university and one is awaiting word on a

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technical learnership while trying to find a scholarship that would enable him to be a teacher. See attached. Of the ten, seven are studying at Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), two at the University of the Western Cape (UWC), and one at the University of Pretoria. The courses they are studying include Languages (1), International Relations (1), Biomedical Technology (1), Tourism Management (1), Tourism and Hospitality Studies (2), Retail Business Management (2), Nature Conservation (1), and Multimedia Technology (1).

They have required considerable support from SAEP, both financially and personally, in entering university this year. In almost every case we paid their registration fees (ranging from R1500 to R3300) because they must pay those fees before they can register to qualify for a student loan. We and other organizations that provide tertiary support have concluded that the NFSAS student loan scheme falls R10,000 short of covering their tuition, fees, and living costs for the year. We have thus created a Tertiary Support Programme and are raising funds to enable us to provide support to the growing number of "alumni" of the internship program at university. Without such support, many will fall by the wayside.

Among interns from previous years, Shiela Yabo (2006) is a standout. She is in her third year at UCT, studying Anthropology, Media Studies, and Gender Studies. Her ambition is to pursue a PhD in Anthropology. We are doing all we can to help her fulfil this dream.

Finally, in case I forgot to mention it earlier, one of our 2004 Gap Year cohort, Nezile Ntutha, was a finalist for the Mandela Rhodes Scholarship last year. We were so proud of Nez, and hope he will reapply this year as Shaun has suggested that he should do. Nez has completed his degree in filmmaking at AFDA, Africa's top film school, and is working for a year in the film industry before continuing his studies.

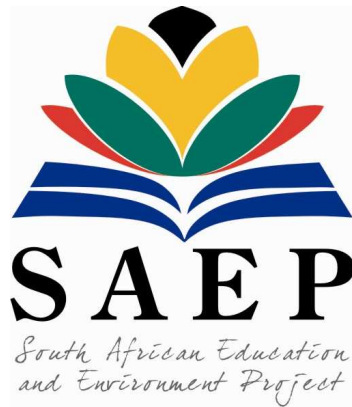
In short, the Bridging Year Program is making a significant impact on a growing number of bright, highly motivated young people who would probably not be able to achieve admission to university and succeed there but for SAEP's program.

Many thanks again for your support. It has made all the difference in our program for these two years!

Warm regards.



Norton Tennille



SAEP Bridging Year Interns 2009



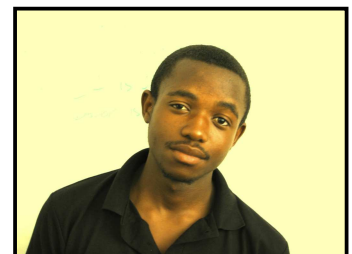
Sinazo Naphakade (19), a talented actress, participated in Drama through SAEP's High School Arts Programme at Oscar Mpetha High. She is considering studying electrical engineering or auditing at Cape Peninsula University of Technology.

Siphokazi Mpololo, mature beyond her 20 years, was previously a Go for Gold candidate and matriculated at Sinethemba High in Phillippi. She would like to study geography at UCT next year and is also considering a career in Quantity Surveying.



Mthetheleli Wontyi (20), a talented poet and positive individual, is a Phillippi High matriculant. Next year he would like to study law at the University of Cape Town. He is considering a career as a lawyer or actor.

Luvo Magwaza (19), a new addition to the group, is working hard to improve his maths and physics scores in order to studying geology or marine engineering. He



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matriculated from Zola Business School in Thembani, Khayelitsha.



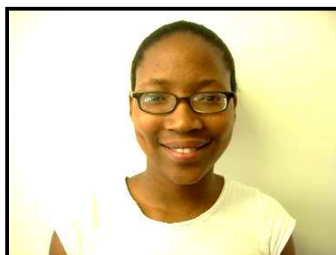
The determined **Nosipho Ndika** (18), an Oscar Mpetha High matriculant, is going places. She would like to study accountancy at CPUT in order to become an accountant or an internal auditor.

Well-spoken **Thuliswa Ndaliso** (18), matriculated at Sophumelela. She will pursue a career in accounting or journalism. In high school, Thuliswa participated in SAEP's media group and poetry class.



Amanda Cwati (17), also known as Sprite, matriculated at Bulumko. She would like to study accounting at UCT or UWC next year and is considering being an accountant or an internal auditor.

The shy, yet articulate **Thembisa Ndlebe** (18), matriculated at Sophumelela. She intends to study accounting at UCT next year and would like to go on to become a chartered accountant.



Lerato Reginah Palagangwe is 18 and matriculated at Fezeka High. She would like to study physics, biology or English at UCT or UWC. She is also considering a career in nursing.

The gentlemanly **Luvuyo Kula** (21) matriculated at Manyano High in Khayelitsha. He would like to pursue a Bachelor of Health and Wellness Sciences. He is considering a career in biotechnology or civil engineering.



Thobeka Zitumane (18) matriculated at Sophumelela Secondary School. This vibrant young woman would like to study accounting at UCT. She is considering a career in business.

Songezo Fikizolo (19), a talented marimba player, matriculated at Oscar Mpetha High School in Nyanga. He would like to study mechanical engineering at CPUT. He is considering a career as a mechanical engineer or a food technologist.



Thuliswa Mpotulo (18), a former provincial basketball player, matriculated at Oscar Mpetha High School. She would like to study physical science and mathematics at UCT or CPUT and is considering a career as a civil engineer.

Lindikhaya Mqukuse is 20 years old. He matriculated at Zisukhanyo Secondary School. He would like to pursue a career in Management or Human Resources at UWC. Lindikhaya previously participated in SAEP's high school English tutoring programme.



Simphiwe Dasi (20), matriculated at Bulumko Secondary School in Khayelitsha. He would like to study computer sciences, IT, journalism and creative writing at UCT. He is considering a career as an IT specialist or a journalist.



SAEP Gap Year Interns 2008

Update as of 28 March 2009



Ntabeleng Qokela

Ntabeleng, a native of Philippi, graduated from Zisukhanyo High School in 2007. Hardworking and determined, she 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 is now studying Biomedical Technology at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology..

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. A dedicated student, Mbulelo was extremely disappointed when he was unable to gain admission to university after matriculating in 2007. His goal has been to study economics and politics at the international level.

His hard work at SAEP has been rewarded by acceptance to study for a BA in International Relations at the University of Pretoria where he began his studies in February 2009.



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 a good “people person.” She improved all of her results when she rewrote her matric exams while at SAEP.

Selloane is now studying Tourism Management at the University of the Western Cape on a scholarship from ASSET.

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. One day he would like to start his own travel and tourism company.

He was admitted to study Tourism/Hospitality Studies at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology and began his studies there in February 2009 on a scholarship from ASSET.





Zingaphi Phindani

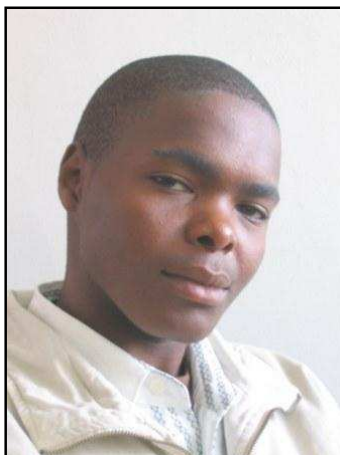
Zingaphi, originally from Philippi, graduated from New Eisleben High School in 2006. She used her love of language as an active participant in the Township Debating League during her school years. Zingaphi goal has always been to study tourism and eventually own a tourism agency.

She was admitted to study Tourism/Hospitality Studies at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology and began her studies there in February 2009 on an ASSET scholarship.

Mphokazi Qinisile

Mphokazi, a native of the Western Cape, graduated from Oscar Mpetha High School in 2007. Since she 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.

She was accepted to study Retail Business Management at Cape Peninsula University of Technology and began her studies there in February 2009.



Thobela Sotshantsha

Due to the lack of jobs and educational opportunities in his Eastern Cape home village, Thobela left in 2005 to move in with his brother in Cape Town. At the time, he knew very little English, so high school was a struggle for him. In spite of that, he became a leader at Intsebenziswano High. Thobela is charismatic and incredibly hard working. He enjoys acting and knows four indigenous African languages in addition to English, Afrikaans and some French. He is also a lay preacher.

Thobela is interested in electricity and has been admitted to Northlink College to do a vocational course in Electrical Heavy Current, a skill in high demand in South Africa, and is also considering a technical learnership at ADT Security.

Letsekang Nyai

Letsekang came 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 was admitted to study Languages at the University of the Western Cape and commenced her studies there in February 2009.



Zanele James

Zanele matriculated from Gardens Commercial High School in 2007. She played a special role in SAEP's gap year programme in 2008, working full time in the Early Childhood Development programme, where she made a significant contribution in office administration and working with the crèche principals and international volunteers in the ECD programme.

Admitted to study Retail Business Management at Cape Peninsula University of Technology, she has begun her studies there.

Mfanelo Stemele

In 2007, Mfanelo graduated from Zisukhanyo High School in Samora Machel. He 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 studies. He is very close to his family, who have supported him throughout his schooling. Mfanelo hopes to work in nature conservation. He has taken advantage of the Gap Year Programme to learn more about the opportunities offered by this sector and meet people who could mentor him in his future studies.

Admitted to study Nature Conservation at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, he began his studies in February 2009.





Sivuyile Dyonase

Sivuyile is originally from the Eastern Cape. He moved with his family to Cape Town in 1998 to obtain a better education. Unfortunately, he was plagued with health problems during his first three years in Cape Town and was unable to attend school. He made some friends who encouraged him to return to school, and he graduated from Zisukhanyo High School. His love is music and film.

He was admitted to do a B.A. at the University of the Western Cape but we understand that he chose to study for a diploma in Multimedia Technology at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology instead.

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