

Dear donors & friends,

This is an unprecedented time for all of us, as I'm sure you're well aware. The global pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus has impacted everyone, and that is no different for SSASF. We are dealing with two major problems:



- 1) Our South African scholars' need is greater than ever. South Africa implemented a very strict lockdown - some of our scholars have had to move home, and all of our scholars are taking their courses online. We are giving them additional support to be able to purchase data and groceries, as campus dining is now closed and most do not have internet access for online classes. We are committed to making sure they can continue their studies and thrive despite extra hardships.
- 2) On the Seattle side, as you may have noticed, we were unable to host our annual fundraising dinner. The lives of our Seattle student volunteers have also been changed dramatically, and the student committee has been unable to meet since the pandemic began.

I hope you can see our dilemma: greater need in South Africa, and reduced fundraising in Seattle. We are able to support our scholars through the beginning of 2021 by tapping into funds set aside for their future needs, but we need the help of the SSASF community to support our scholars into the future and keep true to our mission. As our scholars realize their dreams, they will give back to their peers, channeling their talent, passion, and commitment into improving their communities and all of South Africa.

Thank you,
George Felton, Board President

Covid-19 Response

In March, the board asked Mthobeli, a SSASF alumnus, to survey the scholars to determine what they needed and how SSASF could best support their learning (many thanks to Mthobeli who joined a board meeting at 4AM his time!). South African universities were on break when the nation's lockdown started and they announced the intention to start the new term fully online mid-April. With some scholars staying in "res" (campus housing) while others returned to their families, access to food and internet were both interrupted and essential to academic success. SSASF scholars who had relied on internet access on campus were provided with stipends in order to purchase data necessary to continue attending courses and completing assignments.

Thanks to your generous support over the years, SSASF scholars are able to remain connected to and focused on their courses.

Student Committee Spotlight

From Ava, a University Prep student and a new member of our SSASF Family:

I am so grateful to be a part of a group of students who are so passionate and driven to make a difference. From planning dinners, to decorating posters, and baking cookies for a basketball bake sale, we have proved that such little actions have dramatic effects. A woman walked up to me during the Northwest bake sale and asked me what the goal of SSASF was. We went on to having a 20-

minute discussion about the South African Students and how my friends and I got involved. Just a simple conversation led to her telling her friends and son about the organization. We can spread awareness by having meaningful conversations with people who are open to listen. I do not doubt in my mind that, after this pandemic is resolved, together the South African and Seattle students will accomplish amazing things.

From Maddy Swope, a legacy junior at University Prep:

My favorite part of the year is going through the applications and reading about our applicants' lives. By doing this I feel like I am really able to connect with them. This is also to me the most rewarding part of being a member of SSASF. This year I have enjoyed all the events we have planned, from selling food at the UW tailgate to bake sales at basketball games.

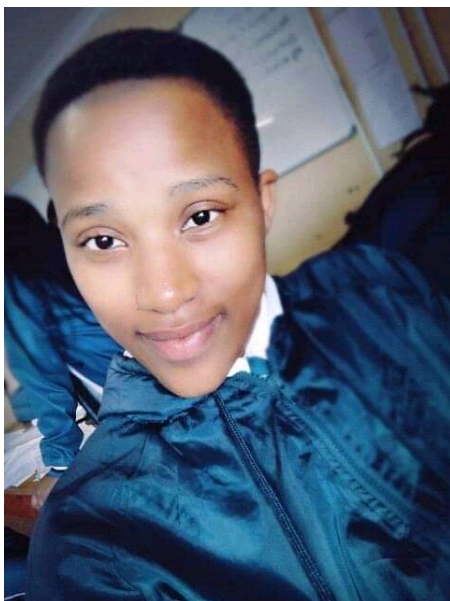
My favorite memory from my time at SSASF was our annual dinner last year. Last year was our final dinner at the Daley-Watson's, and we all had worked really hard to put everything together. It was a very fulfilling experience to have all worked together for a greater cause. It was also many of our members' last year so we were able to say our farewells to them during this dinner. SSASF is important to me because it has expanded my horizons through connecting me to a community on the other side of the world.

Mail from Scholars

"My Favourite Module is Multimedia.
An extracurricular activity I love doing is writing Music.
Basically, Arts is my hobby.

This is a very tough time for everyone globally, especially for us students, but the only way I enrich my life is studying as much as I can while stuck at home. It can be difficult, but I surely will get through it."

Anelisa James - *studying IT at Cape Peninsula University of Technology*



"I am studying LLB degree and one of my favorite recent modules is Law of Succession, which is private law. During this lock down period, I am staying in the private accommodation so that I can get access to internet, because WiFi is available here. It is a better place for me to study online and do all my assignments during this lock down period."

Siphosethu Sentiwe – *studying for a Bachelor of Laws at University of the Western Cape*



“My favorite recent module has to be Law of Property/ Law of Things. It is a challenging module, but I love it! It is about the rights one has over a thing/property, how rights are acquired over a thing, protection and remedies of these rights against others, and the enjoyment of the rights, without causing harm or prejudice to others.

What I do when I am not that busy with schoolwork is plait people's hair, I have done this since my High School days just to make a few cents for essentials such as toiletries. But during the lock down are we required to stay home until advised otherwise. I do not have the means to assist those in need during this tough time, but all I can do is keep safe, pray and hope for the best.”

Sesethu Bota - studying for a Bachelor of Laws at University of the Western Cape

“I am a final year student at the University of Witwatersrand Johannesburg in South Africa. I am pursuing a Bachelor of Arts. I am very much interested in Anthropology as it is one of my major subjects. I so much like keeping healthy therefore I’m always at the gym in the mornings before my classes and sometimes after hours. For the past two weeks since I got back home, I have been helping out at a non-profit Organization called Lulwazi Lethu, the organization has been distributing out reusable masks at previously disadvantaged communities around Cape Town. May the world be a better place for all, more especially during this pandemic, God protect his people”



Nasiphe Verah Melani



“I hope you are well, keeping yourself safe from the COVID-19. My family and I are indoors as we had to take some break from our 3 year apprenticeship program due to lockdown which is also part of civil engineering.”

Ntshepiseng Rametsi – SSASF alum, construction management at Northlink

Luphumzo Damane – *studying Medicine at Stellenbosch University*

“It's been such a privilege to be able to do what I do, touching lives and doing meaningful work for the community and it is all thanks to your contributions. I would have never afforded this opportunity for myself.

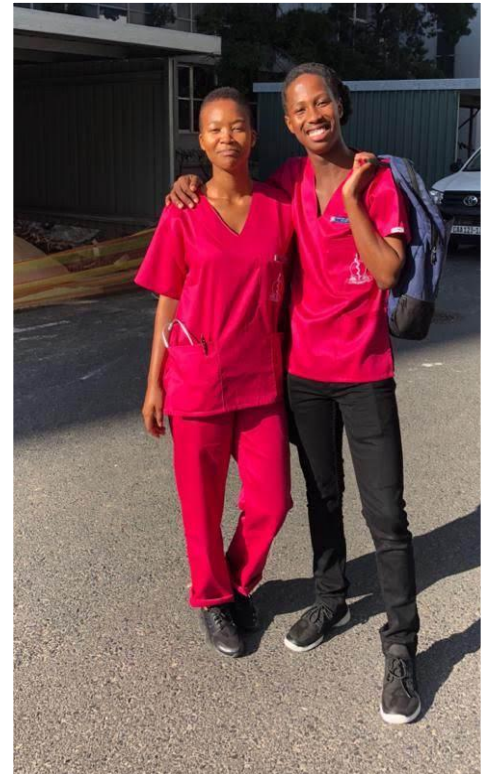
I got to hold a brain in my hand this year, I have never felt so feisty and fearless in life and it was all from holding the master of all organs, The commander of all. It felt amazing.

Just in February, I got to do a hospital rotation, Paediatrics. The picture is of me from hospital with my clinical partner.

It is such a wonderful thing to hold the little ones and have them hope for better when they are lying in a foreign bed, away from home. I want to be there when they get better, I want to make them better and have go play with other kids in the street because when they smile at you it makes you smile and it warms your heart.

The pandemic has however put a hold in my academics, but it has not put a hold on the impact that I try on a daily to conduct within my space of reach. I have managed to make people around me and, in my community, to understand and adhere the lockdown regulations by approaching them as an ordinary citizen, using the medical information that I am aware of. This has been made possible by using social media.

I will forever be grateful to be awarded this opportunity and I hope the kind gesture continue to be endless so that my dream and dreams of others come true.”



Nomveliso Lali –
studying at University of Western Cape

“My favorite module is the Research Paper 431. In this module I get to conduct a research about a topic that I find interesting relating to law. This is the first year that this module has been made compulsory for final year students, it used to be an elective.

I assisted in marking matric [grade 12] exams last year during December holidays. I started my driving lessons from February this year, but we had to stop because of the lock down.

Since the lock down started, I have been busy with my research paper which is due at the end of this month. I have also been catching up with other modules.”



Siphokuhle Mkhomasi – *studying for BS in Computer Science at University of Western Cape*

“It has been a boring period for me, staying at home and not being allowed to see or visit friends. I can't wait to get back at school to do what I enjoy the most which is doing my school work, attending classes and engaging with other students. When schools were closed due to this pandemic we were about to write our term tests as the term was about to end, I was fully prepared and I knew that I was going to do well especially in Physics. I managed to understand Physics from the perspective it is being taught and that has made it very interesting and fun to study, all the information I had on the subject Physics was extended as I'm doing Physics as a module. Physics was my favorite subject in high school and it was amazing to find that my high school favorite subject is more broad in university. I found out something fun to do during this period of the lock down I managed to write music and read books, by writing music I was able to even present what I wrote to some of friends and other people who love music on few social media platforms and the response was quite great.”

Our Financial Future

Over the last five years, more than three quarters of our annual fundraising income has come from the Annual Dinner. As we were unable to gather this spring, we have tapped in to our rainy day fund and anticipate spending down our reserves in order to ensure our current Scholars are supported.

On average during 2019, for every \$100 we spent, \$87 directly went to fund tuition, housing, transportation and other needs of Scholars in South Africa. The rest of our spending generally falls in to two categories: communications (such as the printing and mailing costs of annual dinner invitations) and administrative (such as registration fees with the city or the annual cost of our PO box).

Our direct funding structure means we are able to **maximize** the impact of your donation.

Due to the pandemic, we are providing an increased level of support to each Scholar in order to ensure they're able to stay connected to their courses and classmates. We need your support, now more than ever, in order to ensure Scholars are able to succeed.

We ask you to consider the following ways to support SSASF's work:

- ☐ Sign up to receive future communications via email -- you'll receive future update letters and event invites in your inbox and help us save on printing and mailing costs! Please go to this link to opt in to emails from SSASF - <https://cutt.ly/stayconnected>
- ☐ If you shop on Amazon, set up Amazon Smile and select SSASF as the beneficiary – 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases will be donated for every purchase you make at smile.amazon.com!
 - To sign up, log in to your Amazon account and navigate to smile.amazon.com

- Click “Get Started” then search for Seattle South African Scholarship Foundation
 - Click “Select” and you’re all set up!
 - Since purchases only count if they’re made via smile.amazon.com, browser plug ins (like Smile Always on Google Chrome or Amazon SMILE! on Firefox) are available that will automatically load Amazon URLs via smile.amazon.com
 - If you prefer to shop via Amazon’s mobile app, it’s still possible to have your purchases counted for Smile donations
 - Follow the instructions above on a web browser, as it is currently not an option to sign up for Smile via the app
 - Once you’ve selected SSASF as your charity of choice, open the app and find “Settings” in the main menu (≡)
 - Tap on “AmazonSmile” and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone
 - We would so appreciate if you could encourage your friends and family to also sign up! Every donation helps SSASF continue to support Scholars in South Africa
- ☐ Make a financial gift to SSASF
- A gift of \$200 covers most annual administrative costs so that SSASF can continue operating
 - A gift of \$450 covers the cost of a laptop, required by many Engineering programs
 - A gift of \$700 covers internet costs for 3 months for all the Scholars
 - A gift of \$1000 covers an average of 4 months rent so a Scholar can live near campus, reducing transportation costs and other access barriers
 - Gifts can be mailed to SSASF, PO Box 9633, Seattle, WA 98109
 - Donations can be made via PayPal funds, debit or credit card via <http://www.ssasf.org/donate/>
 - SSASF is also able to accept donations of stock, please contact the Board Treasurer for more information at chara@ssasf.org
 - If your employer matches gifts, please be sure to submit your donation!
- ☐ Help us connect to other sources of funding – know someone involved in a Rotary chapter? We’d love to be introduced!

Favorite Foods

Seattle students and board members gathered a half-dozen of their favorite recipes from past dinners to share with you – check them out at <https://cutt.ly/2020DinnerDishes>

We hope to see you next spring for our 13th Annual Dinner!