

Summer 2021 Update Letter:



Congratulations Seniors!

SSASF extends a hearty congratulations to the graduating Seattle seniors! You will be missed, but know that we are all excited to see the next big thing that you choose to get involved in, because you will absolutely make a difference. Some of our seniors were able to attend an outdoor gathering in May, and shared their thoughts on SSASF with the next generation of members:



Graduating Seniors Isabel (Seattle Prep), Maddy (U-Prep), and Ella (U-Prep) display homemade cupcakes at the end-of-year senior send-off.

- **Isabel:** I have loved being in SSASF this year, it has been a difficult year but we have done a good job of continuing to communicate despite all the different challenges. I am proud of what we were able to accomplish and I am excited to see all our new members keep our trajectory going!
- **Maddy:** I feel like I have seen SSASF's potential while I have been in it, and that has really motivated me to put a lot of effort into it and to keep it going. I hope that all the new members see what I saw!
- **Ella:** I joined in 9th grade and I have seen how we've grown throughout my time. I am excited to see what you all do!



Students gather at Greenlake park to hold a walk-a-thon fundraiser, raising over \$1,200 and invigorating new 9th grade members.

Academic Achievement Spotlight - Siphosethu Sentiwe

A big congratulations to Siphosethu Sentiwe for making the Dean's merit list! She was one of 20 students out of roughly 500 second-year law undergraduates who made the list, and earned this distinction for her high grades. Siphosethu achieved this despite the added stresses of lockdowns and online learning.



“Due to covid-19, last year it was hard for everyone because we were not used to online learning. However, I tried all my best to focus and study and as a result I managed to pass very well. This year of 2021, is also challenging especially now we are preparing for the June examination, there is a lot of work to cover. Sometimes I feel more anxious or stressed but I get motivation and encouragement by telling myself that ‘I can do it.’ I am hopeful I will pass again this year.”
- **Siphosethu Sentiwe**



Welcome to Juliet Siyakonza

SSASF is excited to introduce our latest scholar: Juliet Siyakonza! Juliet graduated from Hector Peterson in 2020, and she was selected to receive SSASF support as she enrolled this year at University of the Western Cape to pursue her Bachelor of Nursing.

“As a first year student of Nursing at the University of the Western Cape ,studying was a little bit challenging since we have to attend all our classes online and I began a week after the normal first school day due to the electronic problems with my applications. I was having a lot of school work to do which gives pressure to me since at university notes for one week is like a whole month.

However I am now doing great since the school's ikamva app has a VPN app and a certain amount of data to assist us with online lessons only. Also, in case I do not understand or fail to attend, there are recorded sessions which I can go through at my own pace which is great. The last but the most important of my year's progress is how fast the SSASF bursary paid my tuition fees in time and also bought me a laptop. This strengthened me and gave me hope for the future and I am coping with my studies. Thanks a lot to you SSASF, I promise to take this opportunity for the best.” - **Juliet Siyakonza**



Reflections from some of our SSASF Scholars



Anelisa James

“My name is Anelisa James. I am doing my third year in IT(Multimedia) at Cape Peninsula University of Technology. Despite the fact that we are still in a pandemic, there is a lot of progress because of online learning. It has it’s disadvantages but we are all trying our best to make the most out of it.”

Nasiphe Verah Melani

“I am a student at the University of the Witwatersrand. With all that’s happening around the world, it’s pretty normal for anybody to feel discouraged or disheartened. That said, despite all the turmoil around the world there’s still some reasons for us to rejoice, good marks keep one sane. Thus far, 2021 has been coming along pretty well academically, and that’s all thanks to the financial support we get from SSASF. May we all remain safe.”

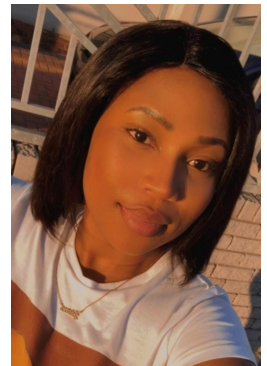


Nomveliso Lali

“I am Nomveliso Lali, a SSASF scholar since 2017. I have completed my LLB degree at the University of the Western Cape in 2020 (last year). Throughout these four years, the SSASF team has been very supportive and have assisted a lot. I am proud to be part of the team. I am currently doing my Masters at the University of Cape Town.”

Sesethu Bota

“It is with pleasure to let you know that school has been going well so far. I have been adapting well to the new online learning system. I would like to thank SSASF because without them this wouldn’t have been possible.”



Siphokuhle Mkhomasi

“My academic year started rough as I was at home and not able to study properly or submit my schoolwork because of the situation at home. Ever since I moved into an accommodation, I have been catching up on a lot of school work and submitting all my assignments. I am currently studying for the exams and hoping to pass, as it is difficult to study online because most lectures send us videos to learn from so there is no chance to ask questions. Other students have a privilege of hiring private tutors who are on campus for help. The ones that are assigned to the class are not helpful enough because they communicate with us via Whatsapp only but all in all I believe in myself so I will do my best.”



How to Support SSASF

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 stamp costs! Please go to this link to opt in to emails from SSASF - <https://cutt.ly/SaveOnStamps>
- 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 plugins (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!