

# 2023 Spring Update Letter:



## Congratulations to our Graduates!

We are so thrilled to announce that FOUR SSASF scholars have earned their degrees and graduated at the end of 2022! We are immensely proud of the hard work they have put into their studies, persevering through a global pandemic and all the interruptions and hardships that brought with it. We are so grateful to you, our donors, who have helped these promising individuals realize their potential and complete their degrees. Please join us in offering a hearty congratulations to our graduates:

- **Siphosethu Sentiwe, LLB.** She earned a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Western Cape.
- **Sesethu Bota, LLB.** She earned a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Western Cape.
- **Ongezwa Mbaba, Bsc in Chemical Engineering.** She earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of Cape Town.
- **Anelisa James, Bachelors in Information Technology.** She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology.

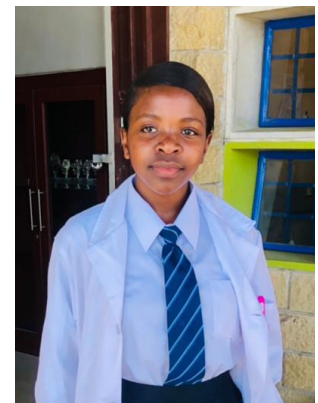
## Welcoming New Scholars!

SSASF was able to offer gap funding to two deserving scholars this year, continuing our mission to help exceptional students from low-income backgrounds who have demonstrated academic strength and leadership potential to achieve their educational dreams. We are so excited to see where these talented young people go! Please join us in welcoming Sanelisiwe and Avela to the SSASF Family.



**Sanelisiwe Nkungwana** is a well-rounded student who is committed to her studies and who loves learning. Her math teacher, Ozias Chipfuvamiti, wrote her a recommendation stating, "Sanelisiwe is a rare type of student who combines exceptional natural ability with a willingness and eagerness to learn. Sanelisiwe is able to help her peers with difficult mathematical concepts, but does so in a way that is both practical and non-condescending...As a student, Sanelisiwe demonstrated a love of learning and the level of commitment necessary to succeed in university and beyond." Sanelisiwe will be studying Dentistry at the University of Western Cape.

**Avela Sibindli** impressed us with her high grades and drive to improve herself and the lives of people around her. She wrote on her application that, "The South African Health work force needs young, enthusiastic doctors, that are going to heal and save the lives of people. The world needs future engineers that are going to change the world. I believe it is my call to save and serve a better life." Avela will be exploring the cutting edge of Medicine & Engineering by pursuing a degree in Mechatronics at Stellenbosch University.



## Recognition for Hector Peterson School

SSASF applicants have always come from the Hector Peterson Secondary School in Wallacedene, a fast-growing district of Cape Town that has historically seen high rates of poverty and crime. Despite these environmental challenges, Principal Mike Mavovana and the Hector Peterson School have received recognition for some incredible accomplishments:

“The school achieved remarkable success with a 92.6% pass rate [for final matric exams], a whopping 14.1 percentage point increase from last year. Moreover, 55% of their candidates achieved bachelor’s passes [equivalent to “passed with honors” - Ed.] – up from 40.2% last year. And they did this all, while increasing the number of candidates writing from 204 to 229.”

Read more about the Hector Peterson School’s incredible win [here](#) (Link:

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2023-01-20-home-run-kraaifontein-school-completely-outperforms-its-matric-result-target/>).

## Seattle Student Engagement is High!



*Caroline & Olivia at a recent event*

Seattle students have been growing club membership, hosting innovative fundraising events, and spreading SSASF’s reach. They have persevered through the many challenges that the Covid-19 pandemic posed for fundraising under the leadership of Olivia and Caroline, both sophomores at Bishop Blanchet High School in Seattle, WA. Here is Caroline on her experience with SSASF:

“My name is Caroline, and I am one of the student leaders of SSASF. This is my second year running SSASF, and it has been such a positive and eye-opening experience. One of my favorite parts of running SSASF is the application process. This is very difficult because we are only able to offer one or two scholarships, but we receive 10-12 applications from hard-working and deserving students.

Knowing the future of someone's education lies in your hands can be stressful, but it also means we are very dedicated to finding who we believe will represent SSASF and who possesses our values. One central idea of SSASF is being able to return and give back to their community in Cape Town so that is an essential part while reading the applications and explaining them to our members. This year, in particular, SSASF received many genuine applications from students with excellent grades. Therefore, it truly came down to the essays portion of the application to help pick a scholar.

This process was eye-opening as some of the applicants talked about their living situations and the difficulties they face while trying to receive their education. This resonated with me and changed my perspective on my own education. I believe it is crucial for students to view education as a gift, not a requirement. Being able to help someone further their education is truly a privilege and that is why I am very thankful to be a part of SSASF and be part of the application process.”

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Our Seattle student members are the driving force behind our fundraising, and their efforts are greatly appreciated. Please consider introducing your friends and family to SSASF's mission, particularly if you have a high schooler in your life who you know would love to be a part of a purpose-driven group of peers growing their skills and making a difference. We can be reached through our website <https://www.ssasf.org/> or via email at [info@ssasf.org](mailto:info@ssasf.org).

## Donate and Make a Difference

- 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](https://cutt.ly/stayconnected) (link: <https://cutt.ly/stayconnected>) to opt in to emails from SSASF.
  
- 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 debit or credit card through [GiveButter](https://givebutter.com/R90Wyk) (link: <https://givebutter.com/R90Wyk>). We can also accept donations via [Paypal](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=RFTVNST2U97PU) (link: [https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=RFTVNST2U97PU](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=RFTVNST2U97PU)) or [Venmo](https://venmo.com/u/SeattleSASF) (link: <https://venmo.com/u/SeattleSASF>).
    - SSASF is also able to accept donations of stock, please contact the Board Treasurer for more information at [george@ssasf.org](mailto:george@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!