

SSP NEWSLETTER

New Executive Director Appointed for SSP



Kim Robinson was appointed Executive Director of SSP on 1 December 2008.

Kim, a graduate of Hunter College of the City University of New York and Harvard Law School, comes to SSP after serving as the Coordinator for Organisational and Leadership Development at the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy.

Previously, Kim was the Director of the Regional Legal Office at the U.S. Agency for International Development in Botswana.

Her connection with South Africa goes back to 1991 when she was a Human Rights Intern at Smith, Tabata, Inc. in the Eastern Cape. In 1994, Kim was a Fulbright Scholar and worked with Wim Trengove SC on constitutional matters and at the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at the University of Witwatersrand. Later, Kim clerked for Justice Johann Kriegler of the Constitutional Court of South Africa.



Kim Robinson, newly appointed Executive Director of SSP.

Kim describes herself as a New Yorker by birth and proudly South African by marriage.

SSP is very excited to have someone of Kim's caliber head the team, particularly with her exceptional record of achievement.

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I start from the premise that the function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers." Ralph Nader

Mentors: Subscribing to the Vision of SSP

SSP has always subscribed to the vision of developing the future leaders of South Africa, Africa and indeed the world.

As part of that process, SSP acknowledges the value of a well organised and managed mentorship programme. Mentors are the people who make the difference in the lives of

SSP's scholars. Many of the alumni attest to the role their mentors played in guiding them to make the right career and life choices, particularly in today's complex world of work.

While mentors support and encourage their mentee to fulfill their potential, their invaluable contribution also

bears fruit in the lives of the student's family.

It is a mutually beneficial relationship whereby the tandem development offers insight to both the mentor and mentee.

For more information contact SSP Deputy Director Laurence Corner at (011) 520 0807 or cornerl@nbc.co.za

SSP Orientation & Leadership Programmes Johannesburg Camp

There is no better way of welcoming SSP scholars and equipping them with the leadership and life skills than the Orientation & Leadership Camp which was facilitated in Gauteng from 6 to 10 December 2008 by Outward Bound in Venterskroon for the incoming Grade eight students.

Students participated in various activities that equipped them with leadership skills, improved self-esteem, motivation, goal setting, problem solving and an introduction to diversity management.

Not only was this an opportunity for the students to learn about SSP, they also got to know their peers and all round had a great time – hiking, abseiling, swimming, river rafting and getting in touch with nature.

Students reported after the camp that they valued the skills they learnt and the relationships they formed. Many said the camp had assisted them in facing and overcoming their fears and believed they could contribute as a support system to overcome challenges at their respective schools.



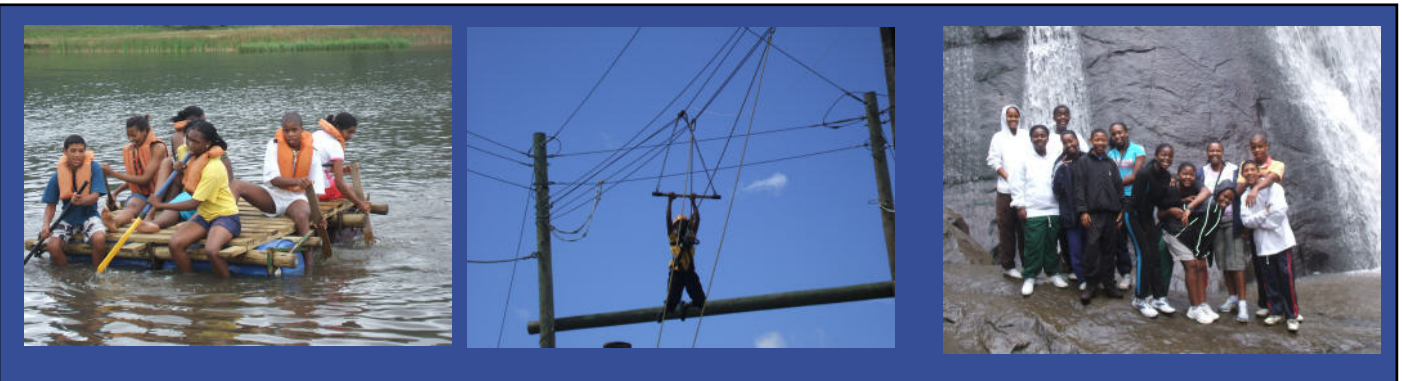
Johannesburg students at Orientation Camp



SSP Orientation & Leadership Programmes Eastern Cape Camp



Eastern Cape students at Orientation Camp



The first Eastern Cape SSP Orientation & Leadership Camp for new Grade eight students took place over two weekends, involving an orientation programme followed by an outdoor camp.

The students participated in similar activities to the Johannesburg group. The indoor orientation programme was held at Selborne College at the end of January this year. The students were welcomed and introduced to SSP by Nobuntu Ndwandwa, and were excited to learn of SSP's history and culture, not forgetting the support programmes that are made available to them for leadership, academic and personal development.

The Outdoor Orientation Programme followed at the end of February and was held at Hobbiton in Hogsburg. The Hobbiton experience certainly stretched students to their limits with a night hike in the forest, hiking to the Madonna and Child Waterfall and building a raft which they used for dam rafting. The emphasis of the camp however was on the importance of teamwork, communication, trust and logical problem solving.



Both indoor and outdoor programmes were informative, experiential and lots of fun. The students vowed to take their newly learnt skills and practice them in their day to day lives – indeed with this skills-set, these youngsters will go beyond the stars.

Study Skills and Personal Management Workshops

With the ever increasing workload at schools, SSP organised a series of Study Skills and Personal Management workshops for all Gauteng students.

The needs of students vary according to their grade and so three workshops targeting specific grade levels were organised. All students were encouraged to attend these workshops to equip themselves with skills that could be put to good use.

Educational psychologist Heike Von Ludwig, a teacher at Parktown High School for Girls, facilitated the Grade 8 and Grade 9 sessions on 22 February and 7 March respectively. Alex Gitlin from St. David's Marist Inanda facilitated the workshop for the senior students from Grade 10 to Grade 12 on 28 February 2009.

For some students it was their first time learning about the concept of study skills and personal management. Other students used the sessions to re-enforce the concepts they had learnt from previous workshops.

The workshops delivered great value to all students and their impact cannot be underestimated as they sought to equip students with effective study skills, personal management, writing and research skills and goal setting to bolster motivation.

The students who have implemented these skills already testify to leading a more organised life and achieving better results.

Embracing Diversity

SSP recruits students from disadvantaged backgrounds and assistance is required to enable SSP scholars to swiftly adjust to their new environments.

SSP assists them by means of a Diversity Camp which this year will take place from 29 June to 2 July. It is important for SSP scholars to understand the issues of diversity, namely the elements of culture, gender relationships and socio-economic differences. The SSP workshop endeavours for students to value such diversity and celebrate their differences.

Assistance via sponsorship will once again be greatly appreciated as your contribution will help SSP build the futures of this country's young leaders. E-mail cornerl@nbc.co.za

Maths Camp Encourages Students to Excel

Mathematics is one of the gateway subjects for entry into most study fields at tertiary institutions and without excellent marks in maths, it becomes almost impossible for students to qualify for bursaries or pursue studies in finance, science, technology and health sciences.

To this end, SSP holds an annual maths camp to assist its scholars to excel in this subject.

In the past, maths camp was only targeted at Grade 12 students who subsequently achieved outstanding results in their final maths results.

This year, SSP intends to extend this initiative to Grade 11 learners to provide a solid foundation into the concepts that are dealt with in Grade 12. The 2009 camp is scheduled to take place from 29 June to 3 July.

SSP does rely on programme sponsors for this event and hopes to secure a partner or sponsor that will contribute to making this event a success.

To sponsor or donate toward this event, e-mail SSP Deputy Director Laurence Corner at cornerl@nbc.co.za



SSP Alumni Sweep Scholarships through Mandela Scholars Programme



Falone Minga



Dexter Padayachee



Milisa Janda

It is no small coincidence that SSP's students took home the gold... rather it serves as a testament to the caliber of SSP scholars.

SSP congratulates Falone Minga (McAuley House, 2008), Dexter Padayachee (St. Martin's, 2008) and Milisa Janda (Clarendon Girls', 2008). They each received full academic scholarships to study at Amherst College in Massachusetts in the United States of America (U.S.A.) as part of the Mandela Scholars Programme.

The merit scholarship recognizes the applied aptitude of our students and highlights why SSP makes a difference.

While Falone, the top McAuley House achiever on the programme, experienced some challenges in acquiring a Congolese passport in order to apply for a visa to visit the United States prior to the commencement of her studies, Dexter and Milisa traveled to the U.S. in April for the Amherst College Open House which took place over three days on the college campus.

All three students also received offers to attend South African universities, including the University of Cape Town (UCT), the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) and the University of Johannesburg (UJ).

At the same time, these scholars comprehend the importance of returning to South Africa to pursue success on the continent.

SSP wishes you courage on the course you have set yourselves. You have done SSP, your peers, schools, families and communities proud. May you reap the rewards with this much-deserved opportunity.

Career Path Planning Workshop

In the interest of equipping SSP students with the necessary information in order to assist them with making the right subject choices for Grade 10, SSP will host a Career Path Planning workshop on 20 June 2009 at NBC in Braamfontein.

Attendance of the workshop is compulsory for all Grade 9 students in addition to the similar workshops / events at their respective schools.



Career Faire

For the first time since the organisation's inception, SSP has a total of only nine scholars in Grade 12 this year (three in East London and six in Johannesburg).

SSP will therefore be doing something a little different from its standard career events. SSP will take each student on a university visit during which they will undergo psychometric tests and learn about each of the universities they will visit, including University of Witwatersrand, University of Pretoria and University of Johannesburg. The Eastern Cape scholars will visit Rhodes University.

SSP will also be facilitating job shadowing opportunities for its Grade 12 students later this year.

SSP will keep its students updated on these and other developments.



Student Fun Day

SSP will host its annual Student Fun Day for all current scholars on 22 August 2009.

The purpose of this event is to encourage interaction among SSP students from the various schools in a less structured environment, and at the same time give everyone a much needed break from their demanding studies.

Calling on SSP Alumni in University

As in 2008, the SSP Graduate Programme Officer will be visiting campuses at which SSP scholars continue to shine.

SSP calls on its alumni to update the organisation on their progress at university as well as to discuss particular challenges that they may be experiencing.



Mentorship Training

Over the last six months SSP have conducted research on how to improve and implement the best possible mentorship programme that will give the maximum benefit to all stakeholders in the mentor - mentee relationship.

SSP invites all mentors to its first training workshop facilitated by Hearlines on Saturday, 9 May from 08h30 to 16h00 at NBC in Braamfontein. To RSVP, contact Patricia Mwale on (011) 520 0494 or e-mail mwalep@nbc.co.za



Parents Forum

SSP has always strived to deliver the best possible service to all its stakeholders.

Together with the parents forum, SSP hopes to offer personal development workshops to all its parents this year.



Leadership Workshop

The Bridging Programme will run a leadership workshop on 16 May 2009.

This is the first Bridging Programme this year and is meant to enhance students' leadership skills as part of SSP's mission of developing future leaders.

A communication has been released to all learners and parents to inform them of the full particulars of the event.



Community Service Initiative

A 2008 community service initiative saw four SSP Grade 9 scholars travel to Cape Town with Habitat for Humanity's building project.

These scholars were the stars of our Grade 9/10 contest which selected the most dedicated and focused community youth leaders within SSP's programme.

Accompanied by SSP Class of 2006 graduate, Lerato Maboya, the pack of five managed to build two homes for residents of Cape Town's Mfuleni township.

To continue to nurture community involvement in SSP students this year, the organisation will embark on a second phase of this community service initiative that encourages learners to give back to their immediate societies in practical and meaningful ways.

We hereby challenge all Grade 9, 10 and 11 students to the following:

- Create groups of three to five scholars at a common school or community;
- Select a project of your interest that can be implemented over six months; or

- Advise us as to what kind of project you would like to get involved in (e.g. children's home, old age home, etc);
- Diarise at least two Saturdays a month during which to implement your project.

Projects will commence in May 2009. Students will be supported throughout this process of reaching out to their communities and the top achievers, on the basis of certain outcomes, will be generously rewarded.

All groups should contact Sibongile Khumalo on **011 520 0162** or email khumalos@nbc.co.za for more information.



Grade 12 Bursaries and University Applications

The SSP graduate programme invites all current matriculants to take this opportunity to contact the organisation as early as possible to discuss career options and application processes.

For these scholars that are faced with the daunting task of research, decision-making and devising a plan of action, SSP has organised a number of events to assist. These include Career Fairs, an application session, CV writing workshop, job shadowing as well as university and career site visits towards the end of the year.

Please keep SSP informed of the status of all your applications, including those for funding - stating names of universities, courses to which you applied, as well as your application date.

SSP would like to encourage you all to:

- Apply to **more than 1 university**;
- Take heed of all **closing dates**;
- Apply for both private and university financial assistance; and
- Ask for assistance where you need it.

Good luck!



The role played by mentors in SSP students' lives was the first idea that came to mind when I was tasked with coordinating a student opinion survey for this newsletter issue.

Looking to investigate and understand better the role played by mentors in the lives of SSP students, I quickly set my plan of action in motion.

In no time I was on the phone calling a sample of students from the 2006 matriculants to the Grade 10 students of 2009, to get their personal opinions on the impact that their mentors have had in their lives.

Some of the questions I asked the students were:

- What kind of a relationship did/do they still have with their mentors?
- Are they still in contact, electronically, in-person or telephonically?
- How has the relationship influenced their lives?
- What is it they would have done differently in their relationship?
- Would they one day consider being a mentor to someone?

I am pleased to report back that many SSP students see the role played by their mentors as a very positive one. Many SSP alumni highlighted the invaluable role their mentors played in the often confusing and frustrating process of choosing a career to pursue.

The relationship path these students have of have had with their mentors was not an easy one, mainly because their mentors are busy people with.

There were frustrations and irritations that became hurdles to the relationships, but students felt that these were not insurmountable and that a little work from both parties could bring mentors and mentees together.

Many SSP high school students are optimistic and enthusiastic about the relationships with their mentors and have started tapping into their mentors' extensive wealth of knowledge and experience. Students brought to my attention the qualities of their mentors – namely being opened minded, caring, patient and helpful.

Mentors assisted them in accessing information they would not have otherwise been able to obtain. They mentioned the fundamental roles their mentors played to help them develop into future leaders by lending a helping hand with studies, life and career guidance. Many students expressed that their relationships have blossomed into very enriching friendships with their mentors and their families.

On the other hand, some students reported that their relationships with their mentors were lacking. They expressed concerns about a break in communication with their mentors. They acknowledged though that they could also be pro active to ensure constant communication.

In conclusion, the role of a mentor in a young person's life is one that is influential and important. A mentor can be described as a compass that guides the student through life challenging and taxing decisions.

Incoming Class of 2010

As in the case in previous years, SSP embarked on an extensive marketing and recruitment campaign to identify academically excellent students for its 2010 intake.

After receiving more than 2 000 applications from academically talented Grade six students, SSP invited 1 800 students to write the mathematics and English entrance tests in October 2008.

In February 2009, SSP interviewed the top 187 applicants for only 100 places in the SSP Bridging Programme. The selected 100 learners, currently completing Grade seven at their respective primary schools, are now attending Saturday classes in

mathematics, science, computer studies and English at Sekolo sa Borokgo (SSB) - SSP's bridging programme partner.

In addition to the academic support, these bridging programme students will be given the opportunity to attend personal development workshops before final SSP scholars will be selected in September 2009.

SSP hopes to place 75 of these students at its various partner schools in Johannesburg and Pretoria while the rest of the students would be given an opportunity to attend Sekolo sa Borokgo.

Incoming Class of 2011

In line with SSP's move to identify prospective scholarship recipients in their Grade six year, the applications for the incoming Class of 2011 is now open. SSP seeks the best Grade six learners who meet the following criteria:

- Currently in Grade six
- Is 12 years of age or younger at the year of application
- Achieves an aggregate average of 65% or above. Additionally, students need to achieve at least 65% in each of the following: mathematics, natural science and English
- Has demonstrated financial need

Application forms are mailed to all Gauteng primary schools. Completed application forms will be accepted at SSP offices from 20 April to 31 July 2009.

SSP will also have a full day dedicated to the acceptance of application forms at six venues on 1 August 2009. The venues are as follows:

1. NBC Braamfontein
2. Lakeview Primary School – Dhlamini, Soweto
3. Pretoria Boys High – Pretoria
4. Randfontein Primary School – Randfontein
5. Selborne Primary School – Vereeniging
6. Igagasi Primary School – Spruitview

Learners who qualify will write the exams in August. SSP is expecting 3 000 applicants to sit for the exams. Top achieving learners will be interviewed in October 2009, and selected learners will join the Grade seven bridging programme in 2010.

Meet Gillian Turner and Charity Sibanda

Charity Sibanda and Gillian Turner's families knew each other before Charity was accepted into the Student Sponsorship Programme.

The families met through church and it was Gillian who suggested that Charity apply for a SSP scholarship. According to Gillian, the fact that the families had known one another for some time helped in the teething stages of their mentor - mentee relationship.

According to Gillian, the SSP events though helped her get to know Charity more in-depth as both she and Charity are introverts.

After Gillian saw an invitation on NBC's notice board (NBC is one of SSP's benefactors), she applied to become a mentor and was amazed at the nature of support SSP enjoyed both in South Africa and abroad.



Charity, a Grade 11 student at McAuley house, considers herself fortunate to have been matched with Gillian. She said that as soon as she was informed of their match, she was ecstatic because she knew Gillian and her family.

Their relationship, according to Charity, has been and continues to be that of a "mother and daughter". Very strict at times, Gillian considers Charity one of her own children. If Charity is challenged in any of her subjects, she picks up a phone and calls Gillian's daughter. On the approval of both families, Charity goes to Gillian's house for a weekend where Gillian's daughter, whom she considers a sister and a friend, assists her with her work. As a result, Charity has grown even closer to Gillian's daughter to the extent that they chat at least once a day.

Gillian describes Charity as a reserved, yet confident young woman. Once Charity is familiar with a person, she opens up and the person is amazed at the good manners and maturity that Charity possesses. She said that although Charity was doing relatively well at school, she was capable of being an "A" student. Both Charity and Gillian will be working on a plan for Charity to improve her school marks.

"Communication, communication, and more communication", is what both Gillian and Charity consider a key to a successful mentor – mentee relationship. They believe that it is only through communication that both parties can understand and value one another.

Gillian believes that it is crucial for a mentor to meet their mentee's family and keep in constant communication with them as this helps the mentor in better understanding their mentee.

Although all relationships have their challenges sometimes, Charity believes that it is concentrating on the bigger picture and accepting that people are different that makes their relationship blossom. Theirs is the kind of relationship that they believe will continue beyond school.

Both Charity and Gillian have attended almost all SSP events where mentors and mentees are invited. They have especially enjoyed the community service events.

Gillian sees the importance of involvement in the community service events, especially for students, as it creates awareness on the realities in our broader communities. It also teaches students to plough back to their communities whenever they can.

Makhotso Moname



Although her career choice has shifted from urology to chemical engineering, Makhotso is undoubtedly focused.

This not only applies to her academic diligence, but she has consistently participated in a wide range of activities outside of the classroom.

She is a well rounded and compassionate individual who is considered by her mentor, Meryl Folb, to be “very wise for her age and seems to understand the realities of life”.

Makhotso comes from a family of four. Her mother, Motlalepula, works for a law firm and is the main source of encouragement for Makhotso. Her support is much needed considering Makhotso’s participation in taxing activities that include the Interact Club, swimming and soccer.

Makhotso is a talkative young woman with an uncanny ability to influence one through conversation. This trait has led her to become a prefect at St. Mary’s, the only black student in Grade 12 to do so.

The fulfillment of her increasingly taxing responsibilities, both at home and at school, is a testament of her amazing knack for multitasking.

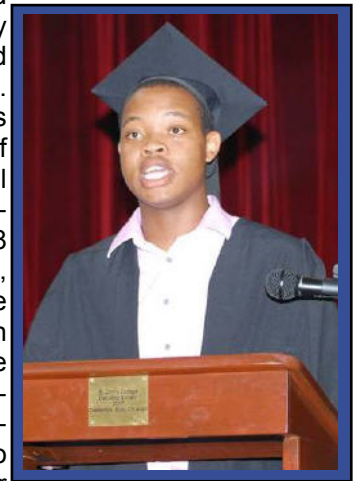
Makhotso admits that growing up in South Africa in these interesting times is a test of her generation’s perseverance and vision. “It seems as though today’s youth have big shoes to fill. We are always compared to the youth of 1976 as they are said to have had a ‘vision’ and we don’t”, she says.

This in itself is a challenge to Makhotso that she gracefully and willingly takes up in everything she sets her mind to.

Graduation of the class of 2008

In 2008, an SSP class of 57 scholars graduated from our partner schools in Gauteng and the Eastern Cape. Now SSP has 224 scholars who have successfully finished high school. On 17th and 24th of January 2009, SSP held graduation and prize-giving ceremonies to pay tribute to its outgoing Class of 2008. St John’s College in Johannesburg again supported this event by hosting us on their beautiful grounds. More than 250 sponsors, parents, alumni, school representatives and scholars attended the Gauteng graduation to celebrate excellence and achievement.

SSP co-founder and trustee, Nyagaka Onger, addressed the audience and introduced NBC’s widely respected founder and chairman, Max Maisela. The keynote speech was inundated with words of wisdom from a successful businessman and SSP patron of note. Class of 2008 outright valedictorian, Mpho Mutloane became the third SSP valedictorian from St John’s College. He delivered a touching address, in which he encouraged fellow graduates to continue to spread their wings as well as to give back to their respective communities. Thabo Seopa (TDS), Colin Brown (Deutsche Bank) and Patrick Mamathuba (Stanlib) presented certificates of merit and academic distinction to all achieving students and the matriculating class. This event was the first of many under the leadership of SSP’s new Executive Director, Kim Robinson, who delivered the closing remarks of the ceremony.



In East London, an impressive crowd gathered to honour the graduates of our Eastern Cape partner schools. Kim Robinson delivered the address on behalf of SSP. Black Management Forum Regional Chairman, Thando Mputlu, gave the keynote speech. He highlighted the importance of emerging black graduates in advancing progress and prosperity in South Africa. The first valedictorian in the province, Milisa Janda, will be one of three (Dexter Padayachee and Falone Minga being the other two) SSP graduates to commence tertiary studies at Amherst College in August 2009.

As SSP gained 57 new alumni, we also welcomed 97 new learners in 2009. The class of 2008 has now passed the baton to these learners. We wish the alumni well with tertiary education and pledge to continue to support them further.

Eastern Cape Office Opened

SSP has gone national. Although SSP has assisted students in the Eastern Cape for some time, it was in April that our office opened in that province. The office will be led by newly-appointed Regional Director, Kolisa Siqoko. She will be assisted by Operations Manager, Sibongile Khumalo.

The move to open the office in East London will be warmly received in this province because most Eastern Cape families live below the poverty line. During her 2008-2009 state of the City address, Buffalo City Executive Mayor Zintle Peter, said an average household spends almost 60% of their total expenditure on food, transport, housing and municipal services – leaving very little to spend on education.

This is where SSP comes in. SSP has already made inroads in the Eastern Cape. After starting with just eight scholars in 2008, SSP currently has a total of 18 learners. During the first SSP graduation ceremony in the Eastern Cape in January, Milisa Janda was honoured for having obtained four distinctions.

All Eastern Cape SSP scholars can look forward to a full programme, which includes leadership and other personal development workshops and camps. This year's new grade eight students had a very successful orientation camp in Hogsback in February. Our mentorship programme is also in progress. Many corporate organisations in the region will be hearing more from SSP as we forge partnerships.

We trust that the Eastern Cape programme will be as successful as the Gauteng programme has been over the last 10 years.



New Regional Operations Manager for East London

Sibongile Khumalo has become a great asset to the SSP family since joining the organisation's ranks as a volunteer in 2006 doing office administration work.

A graduate of the School of Physiology at the University of Witwatersrand, Sibongile, upon entry into SSP, was more a scientist than a catalyst for social change.

In July 2007, Sibongile became the SSP Graduate Programme Officer. She has transformed the graduate programme into a powerful one focused on scholar success beyond secondary education.

Sibongile is passionate about SSP and has sought greater ways to contribute.

To this end, Sibongile will move to the East London office as Eastern Cape Operations manager with effect from June 2009. Although a great loss to our university programme, it is certainly a gain for our new regional office in East London.

According to Sibongile, "I now see myself as a scholar and community change agent. The SSP work is fulfilling, and lets me live the dream of a transformed South African society though empowering our youth. I look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with the students and new staff of the Eastern Cape, and hope to continue being an asset to the programme."

Jeppie High School for Girls

The decision was taken to focus on one of the latest schools to partner with the Student Sponsorship Programme in this issue of the SSP newsletter.

As part of the first cohort of SSP scholars to start at Jeppie High School for Girls, 10 young ladies joined the school at the start of 2009.



Jeppie Girls, as it is commonly known, is situated in Kensington in the heart of Johannesburg, Gauteng. The school opened its doors to 25 students in 1890 with Rev HB Sidwell as the first headmaster. After experiencing financial constraints in the late 1890's, the school was unfortunately forced to temporarily close its doors. After the Anglo-Boer War in 1899, the school was re-opened. Due to its growth after reopening, the school experienced challenges with insufficient facilities and premises to accommodate the large number of students and it was decided that boys and girls should have separate school premises. In May 1991, the school opened its doors to students of all races.

Amongst its alumni the school boasts an impressive list of leaders. Amongst them are:

- Ruth First (Anti – apartheid heroine)
- Jenny Warwick – Mayor of Bedfordview
- Juliet Newton – UNISA Business School Emerging Leader Award in 2006
- Prof. Isabel Hofmeyer – A rated scientist and professor of African Literature at Wits University.
- Dr. Tracy Wiggill – leading SA blood researcher
- Ivanka Aquisto – Head of St. Stithians Girls College
- Ann Fairlie – former world backstroke record holder
- Debbie Visagie and Marlene Botha – Springbok hockey players
- Bethany Fabricius – National colours in Taekwondo and the only ranked African female referee, also ranked in the top 25 referees at the Athens Olympics
- Ayanda Nhlangothi – A SA Idols finalist and theatre performer
- Rachel Zadok – Playwrite

Jeppie High School for Girls not only aims to be a centre of academic excellence but also prides itself on the wide variety of extra curricular activities it offers. These range from **cultural activities** such as choir, drama, public speaking, debating, flower shows to **sports activities** such as cricket, cross country, hockey, netball, soccer, tennis and volleyball. Many former and current students have gone on to represent their province and national sports teams.

The focus of Jeppie High School for Girls though is primarily on academics. The school endeavors to ensure that each pupil achieves her academic potential while engaging in a range of sporting, cultural and social activities. The school participates in a number of subject Olympiads and other academic programmes such as the Mintek Quiz for outstanding mathematics students and Wits Universities Bridge Building contest hosted by the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering every year. They have also been the top school in terms of academic performance in their district for the last six years. They were selected as a Dinaledi School of Mathematics Excellence and received this prestigious award in 2007 from the National Education Department. In addition, Jeppie Girls received an award from Standard Bank for the improvement in overall number of distinctions in 2007. The school choir participated in the World Choir Games in Graz, Austria in July 2008 and Jeppie Girls was the only high school to be invited to take part in the Tshwane Youth Arts Festival Gala evening at the State Theatre in Pretoria.

SSP's Class of 2008

Wilton Antonio | Ra'eesa Asmail | Tatollo Bobo | Leyandrey Booyse | Liesel Da Costa | Adian Da Gama | Buyisiwe Dlamini | Miche Du Plessis (EL) | Vuyokazi Gwayi (EL) | Nontombi Hadebe | Ziyaad Hamid | Someleze Hamilton | Jared Ishmael | Milisa Janda (EL) | Nicole Jones | Thandeka Jwaha | Kagiso Kau | Tshego Kgasago | Amir Khan | Victoria Lekone | Nomlando Lukuleni | Thenjiwe Mabope | Douglas Mabotse | Sibongile Mabuza|Sipho Mabuza | Jaishil Manga | Nompumelelo Martin | Tumi Masango | Themba Masemula | Kabelo Matlala | Wesley Matlala | Mapula Matlawe | Humbulani Matshili | Sibusiso Matsini | Falone Minga | Khabazela Mkhize | Christine Moeketsi | David Mojaki | Keabetswe Mokitle | Tsholofelo Motaung | Lerato Motimele |Mpho Mutloane | Nthabeleng Mzizi | Lorraine Ngubane | Maryann Nkhambula | Olwethu Nqaba | Dexter Padayachee | Tameem Padayachee | Mmanala Rabothata | Rudolph Ramaboea | Nthombenhle Shezi | Portia Shibambu | Rinah Shingange | Richard Sibeko | Joleen Tarr | Cleide Tinga | Cherren Zulu

After hard work comes reward!

SSP congratulates the students listed below for their outstanding achievements. Well done and best wishes to SSP learners for the rest of 2009.

Anand Hadebe: Brcsia House School
 Angela Harris: St. Stithians Girls' College
 Bongwiwe Motswene: Kingsmead College
 Blessing Maseko: St. Stithians Girls' College
 Bradley Molefe: St. John's College
 Delicia Arjunan: St. Martin's School
 Deon Pienaar: St. Martin's School
 Emmanuel Makgoja: St. Stithians Boys' College
 Felicia Arjunan: St. Martin's School
 Itumeleng Makgakga: Brescia House School
 Kabelo Matabane: St. Stithians Boys' College
 Kamogelo Moloji: St. Davids Marist Inanda
 Keabetswe Mokitle: St. John's College
 Khopotso Mokoena: Brescia House School
 Lehlohonolo Mofokent: St. Stithians Boy's College
 Lesego Chauke: St. Martin's School
 Lloyd Jubane: St. John's College
 Lungelo Mphahlele: AISJ
 Masedi Paile: Redhill School
 Menzi Gumbi: St. Stithians Boy's College
 Mhlali Vezi: Parktown High School for Girls
 Mokhele Tsotsotso: St. John's College
 Mpho Mutloane: St. John's College
 Naledi Legodi: Parktown High School for Girls
 Naledi Thipa: Brescia House School
 Nomalanga Ngwenya: Parktown High School for Girls
 Palesa Mohapi: Parktown High School for Girls
 Refiloe Namise: Parktown High School for Girls
 Robert Harris: St. Stithians Boys' College
 Sibusiso Mlotshwa: St. Stithians Boys' College

Simphiwe Matyokana: Redhill School
 Siphesihle Nyembe: St. John's College
 Thato Mohlomi: McAuley House
 Tshepiso Modise: St. John's College
 Rebekah Naidoo: St. Martin's School
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Investing in the Preparation of our Learners

With more than 100 academically talented learners, 2008 was a great beginning to the Bridging Programme - the gateway to the SSP scholarship programme.

The student selection was a daunting task, but the end result was worth it. The learners were committed, hard working and eager to learn. When the programme started in May, learners came in shy, reserved and disconnected from one another. They emerged from the programme confident, outspoken and enthused with team spirit. Strong friendships were forged among learners who are intent on contributing to South Africa's progress.



The programme included Saturday classes, camps and workshops that were facilitated by subject specialists. Learners in the Bridging Programme come from backgrounds that are very different from the ones where they are likely to study. It is therefore crucial to prepare these learners and lay the foundation that will assist them to adjust and perform better in their academic work. Personal development workshops focus on teaching the learners to manage themselves in terms of conduct, presentation and time.

Towards the end of 2008, 75 top performing learners were granted SSP scholarships. Learners that did not receive a scholarship were offered one by the programme's partner, Sekolo sa Borokgo. The Bridging Programme is proving to be a successful way to develop high calibre candidates for the SSP scholarship programme.

2009 Bridging Programme

Receiving the news of the approval of SSP's Bridging Programme funding request was a great joy. The year has started with a bang!

A strategic decision was taken to separate the Bridging Programme from the SSP scholarship in order to develop its own identity.

With the programme now in its second year, lessons learnt in 2008 will assist in continually improving the programme. Much is still the same as the programme still holds Saturday classes, workshops and camps.

There are more tests planned for 2009 and these will give the Bridging Programme a standardised picture of students' performance, allowing for a fair contest for scholarships.

An early start will ensure the timely selection of learners into the SSP scholarship programme, so all activities will take place earlier than in the past.

From over 2 000 applications received last year, 95 quality candidates were selected. Learners wrote the baseline test on the first day of class in order to assist teachers in drawing up the curriculum for the year. Classes have started off well, although, there are students who have pointed out that some of the work is completely new to them.

Through a successful Bridging Programme, another strong class of SSP scholarship recipients will be produced.