



SSP E-NEWSLETTER

A True SSP Ambassador

By: Busisiwe Maile, Student Recruitment Officer, SSP Gauteng



I recently had a chat with an SSP champion with a heart of gold and a tremendous entrepreneurial spirit.

Meet Kegomoditswe Rampa, known as Kego by her friends. She is a grade eight SSP Scholar from Roedean who has shown pure zeal in her role as SSP ambassador. Together with her fellow grade eight scholars, this young lady was encouraged to find out whether learners at her former primary school received the SSP scholarship application forms. These application forms were to be distributed amongst the school's grade six learners. Kego has not only reached out to her former primary school but to six other primary schools in her community.

To Kego, being an SSP Ambassador means being an excellent representative for SSP and her school. Kego says, "If people do not know SSP or the school I attend but see me, they will have an idea of where I come from."

Kego arranged meetings with grade six HODs, school principals and deputy principals. According to her, she just shared her own personal story about how she was awarded the SSP Scholarship. She also shared with them what learners in their respective schools can do to get the opportunity of receiving this scholarship. Kego says, "I think that when they saw me, they realised that the scholarship was real and they became excited about what the scholarship could do for their learners."

Kego says she feels honored that someone's life can be changed because of something she did, "something as simple as handing in an application form to a school."

"I guess I realised that as a future leader of South Africa and as an SSP Scholar, I have a responsibility to share my SSP experience with others so that their lives might become better".

Kego feels that a good leader is someone who understands that life is not about receiving but about giving.

SSP applauds Kego and all the SSP Ambassadors in the SSP family. Our strength grows with the number of lives we touch for the better.

Sponsor Spotlight

By Kolisa Siqoko, Regional Director, SSP Eastern Cape

What makes an organisation year after year continue to donate money into an orphaned and vulnerable children's fund? I am sure your instinctive response is, the owner of the organisation is probably an orphan or was a vulnerable child.

However, Bummi Ilori founder and principal partner of IDC Architects is none of those. He had a happy childhood in his native Nigeria. Born of highly educated and affluent parents, he left his country for the United Kingdom where he completed his tertiary education graduating with a diploma from Birmingham College. That is where he later obtained a BA degree.

His first job was as a design Architect with McColl's, Seifert International in London UK. He then worked for S.K. Riddick and Partners and later joined Epstein International for two years as a Project Architect in charge of projects in Denmark and Spain. He now considers himself a citizen of the world after settling in the Eastern Cape in 1992, where he started his own architectural firm, IDC Architects. Ilori has embraced Eddie Robinson's words: "The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential...these are keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence."

He credits much of his success to his parents who passed on to him values of excellence, moral and social consciousness – values that have shaped his life as a businessman. IDC architects now have offices spanning the coastal part of South Africa, including Cape Town, East London, Port Elizabeth, Durban and Mthatha, and has a long list of clients including Eskom and the East London Airport. The firm's success extends beyond the South African borders. It lists among its achievements outside of South Africa, the new Royal City commercial complex in Lagos and the national gallery in Abuja, Nigeria and a 5 star hotel in Juba, Southern Sudan.

Bummi cites patience, perseverance and a general love for people as having helped him overcome the many challenges encountered in the hostile business environment. He can now easily relate to people across cultures and across time zones. His passion and interest for reign of societal goodwill, led him to sponsor Orphans and Vulnerable Children at SSP since 2009.

SSP values IDC Architect's support and the good contribution that the organisation is making for the future leaders of South Africa. This once again proves that success begets success.



Bunmi Ifori, founder and principal partner of IDC Architects

"Excellence, leadership and community service" personified

By Sibongile Khumalo, Operations Manager, SSP Eastern Cape

SSP alumni agree that they would probably not be where they are had it not been for opportunities that the scholarship provided. This is a sentiment shared by Ishmael Maphike, who graduated from King Edward VII School (KES) in 2006. Ishmael, along with his brother Thato who also attended KES on the SSP scholarship, were raised by a single mother with support from their grandmother and aunt. The most important lesson that their home environment taught him was to dream and never let his circumstances be an excuse for failure.

Determined to heed these words, Ishmael made the conscious decision to go for **excellence**, armed with the positive attitude to never let his past determine his future. He occupied several **leadership** roles during his school years, including being head boy in Primary School, captaining his rugby team and being an executive member of the choir at KES.

As a member of the SRC at CIDA City Campus, where he studied towards a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, specialising in Marketing and Human Resources Management, he continued to make a meaningful contribution to his peers.



Ishmael Maphike

Ishmael understands the importance of **servicing one's community** and gives freely of his time and skills by coaching rugby, a contribution that he says was encouraged by the words of Taddy Blecher, co-founder of CIDA, that "it takes a child to raise a community" and not the other way around. With a mentor who owns an IT company, Ishmael has the confidence and adequate support to navigate the corporate world, starting in his Marketing role at T-Systems. He also adds that before SSP, he lacked the hunger and ambition to succeed, but recognises the value of being educated at one of the best high schools in the country.

Treasures at Student Sponsorship Programme: Tandiwe Njobe

By Yvonne Lushaba, SDP Officer, SSP Gauteng

Student Sponsorship Programme prides itself in the calibre of stakeholders in its echelons. As an organisation that centres on leadership, excellence and community development, it is a difficult task to find people that epitomize all three. We consider ourselves fortunate to be surrounded by such talent. Ms. Tandiwe Njobe, a trustee, is one of our very own rare commodities.

It all started during her school years, as a student activist during the apartheid era, when being a political leader was a risk, she fought on, regardless. She believes that everyone, herself included, have an innate potential to lead; leadership is about recognizing and taking an opportunity to be a leader when it presents itself. She is now responsible for business development at Standard Bank. This is a role that requires someone with a strong character, who understands business objectives and his/her role and is organised.

Tandiwe has a set personal standard, integrity and value system; these are traits that drive her to deliver excellently. She is able to produce quality work because she pays attention to detail; she thoroughly plans, communicates effectively with stakeholders and understands that she needs to consult with others for the success of her undertakings.

She realized her passion for the upliftment of the community when she was an anti-apartheid activist, fighting for the rights of different categories of people in the community. Since then, she has been devoting her time, money and other resources towards good causes, more especially in educating the nation. Being a beneficiary of scholarships herself, she saw it necessary to contribute towards the benefit of education to deserving children. That is how she got to be involved with Student Sponsorship Programme.



Tandiwe Njobe

Tandiwe believes that her experiences in life have collectively contributed to where she is today, her education, family, friends, jobs and her successes and failures. Although she has three degrees from international universities, she has remained grounded. She says this does not define her, but, her achievements from the exposure are what make her.

In inspiring aspiring leaders, she says that scholars need to believe in themselves, not be discouraged and pursue what makes them happy. She encourages everyone to define their own values and parameters of integrity and stick to them. And be prepared to say "I am sorry, I was wrong".

SSP HIGHLIGHTS SSP Scholar makes history at Kingsmead College



Vuyolwethu Nkosi

Vuyolwethu Nkosi, a grade 10 SSP Scholar at Kingsmead College made school history by being the first learner at her school to achieve **100% in Advanced Programme Math (AP Math)**. AP Math is only done by learners who have consistently proven themselves in the math subject; many learners and educators will tell you that it is by no means an easy feat.

Vuyolwethu's career aspiration is to become an Actuarial Scientist one day. The SSP family applauds Vuyolwethu for all her hard work and for being a shining example to her fellow scholars.

SSP Alumnus sought after by a college in the USA



Tshediso Johannes Matake

It is not a rumour that SSP produces stars. Tshediso Johannes Matake was recently scouted by the New York based, Skidmore College in the USA. Tshediso, a graduate of the American International School of Johannesburg (AISJ) will be heading to the Big Apple to **study Mechanical Engineering on a full scholarship** as from August 2011. The Skidmore College scholarship looks for well-rounded learners with leadership potential from various international schools in South Africa.

We wish Tshediso the best of luck on his new and exciting journey.



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SSP – Organisational Evaluation

After having celebrated our 10th anniversary recently it is now important that we evaluate how we have done on delivering on our vision of **“Developing leaders for South Africa”**.

As a result we have partnered with JET Educational Services to do an organisational evaluation. They will contact you soon to give you the opportunity to give your input and to contribute to our future success.

Thank you for your cooperation.

SSP welcomes new staff

The quality of an organisation is determined by the calibre of individuals who operate in it. SSP is proud to welcome two new staff members, namely; Nosipho Sithole and Siphokazi Nonyongo in the Gauteng office.

Siphokazi Nonyongo is SSP's new intern and its youngest member. She grew up in Durban and matriculated from Durban North College. She is currently studying towards a degree in Bcom Economics through UNISA. In August 2010, Siphokazi was accepted for a learnership as a Medical Bill Auditor at the Road Accident Fund. "The learnership programme helped me understand the work environment and the challenges that come with it, and also contributed to my personal growth" says Siphokazi. Aside from fulfilling her academic objectives and acquiring skills, Siphokazi says she is happy to be a part of an organisation like SSP, "this opportunity will widen my horizons and certainly add value to my life. More importantly, I get to make a difference in my community.

Siphokazi will be assisting the SSP Gauteng Office with filing, general administration, data capturing, events and marketing.

Nosipho Sithole is SSP's new Graduate Programme Officer. Prior to joining SSP, Nosipho founded a website (www.guidinglight.co.za) geared to help high school learners to make informed career choices. She has worked as a teacher trainer and held various Human Resources and administrative positions in the corporate environment.

Nosipho holds a Bachelor of Social Sciences degree, specialising in Applied Psychology, from the University of South Africa, as well as a Personnel and Training Management Certificate from Damelin. Nosipho is currently studying towards an Honours degree in Psychology, specialising in career counseling and psychometry.

Nosipho says she really believes in the power of education and how it can change lives. "SSP not only makes a difference in the lives of the students it sponsors but changes the future of families" she says, "In so many ways, my personal values and those of SSP's match".

Nosipho will be focusing on assisting the SSP Alumni, creating a stronger relationship between the Alumni and SSP. She will also play the pivotal role of preparing SSP Grade 11 and 12 Scholars for life after high school.



Siphokazi Nonyongo and Nosipho Sithole

My take on June 16

By Abongile Luxomo, SSP Scholar and Student Council Member

AMANDLA AWETHU!! THE POWER IS OURS!!

June 16th. The first thing that comes to mind when someone mentions that day is "Yippee! A public holiday!"

If it was not for the media, I probably would not even know the reason behind the holiday. It so happened that I took out a book called "A Child Called Freedom" by Carol Lee which is about a British lady who becomes intrigued by the 1976 Soweto Uprising and decides to investigate it. She travels to Gauteng and the UK whilst interviewing people who were involved or affected by the Uprising.

After reading the book I actually felt quite embarrassed about my lack of knowledge around the Uprising and how my not knowing about it, is exactly what they were fighting against. I have now become informed about the uprising and I will share with you what I have discovered.

The class of '76' wanted to get rid of Bantu Education because it forced them to learn in Afrikaans. It limited how they learnt, what they learnt, and therefore limiting what they could become. All they wanted was to be given a fair chance at education.

This education is exactly what we have been given, yet I don't believe that we are using these chances fully. It is at this point where all teens including myself would be rolling their eyes and asking, "Who asked them to sacrifice themselves?", but what we have not asked ourselves is "what if they had not fought and died for what they believed in, and would I have this opportunity before me now?"

I now know that when June 16th rolls around this year, I will certainly think of it differently.

SSP AMBASSADORS' COMPETITION



SSP Gauteng is recruiting future leaders for South Africa and is calling on all SSP Scholars and Alumni to spread the good news and distribute the scholarship application forms to primary schools in their communities.

The biggest prize is of course making a difference but you can win yourself an awesome prize by becoming an SSP Ambassador.

THE HIGHER THE NUMBER OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS YOU DELIVER THE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORMS TO, THE GREATER YOUR CHANCE OF WINNING.

Who can enter the competition?

SSP Scholars and SSP Alumni may enter. Parents, mentors and friends are welcome to assist.

What do you have to do?

1. Make copies of the scholarship application form and give them out to as many primary schools in Gauteng as possible.
2. Make sure that all the schools you visit sign the SSP Ambassador Slips. The SSP Ambassador Slips will serve as proof of your school visits.
3. Forward the SSP Ambassador Slips via:
 - o Delivery: SSP Office: 4th Floor, NBC Building, 76 Juta Street, Braamfontein
 - o Email: maileb@nbc.co.za
 - o Fax: 086 687 6240

Where Do I get the scholarship application forms and the SSP Ambassador Slips?

- The scholarship application form is available on the SSP website
- School coordinators will also have the application forms and Ambassador Slips available for scholars
- Contact the SSP office and the necessary documents will be emailed to you directly

When is the closing date?

20 July 2011

Good Luck!!!!

*****Please note that Student Sponsorship Programme's Gauteng Recruitment for 2011 ends 30 July 2011

The American International School of Johannesburg

By Lillian Said, Student Programme Officer, SSP Gauteng



The American International School of Johannesburg (AISJ) consists of an elementary school (a "mini world within a school"), a middle school (for that time when learners are seeking greater independence and exploring their identity) and a high school. The school offers students an American-style curriculum, enriched with a diversity of international courses and programs. Students attending AISJ come from a variety of backgrounds, with over 70 nationalities represented in the student body. The high school faculty consists of qualified, experienced teachers from the USA, Canada, South Africa, and numerous other countries.

SSP currently has 9 scholars attending AISJ, four of whom will be graduating in 2011. Successful graduates complete a challenging and engaging program that requires them to earn 26 credits in a wide variety of courses. AISJ learners have the option to enrol in the International Baccalaureate diploma program or pursue certificates in selected IB courses.

The school follows a strong activities and athletics program. Competitive sports include soccer, volleyball, basketball, tennis, swimming, and track and field. AISJ is a founding member of the International Schools of Southern and Eastern Africa (ISSEA) league, where students compete against athletes from schools in 6 other African countries. On a recent visit to the school I had the pleasure of seeing the impressive number of championship banners on the wall of the gym.

SSP thanks AISJ for ensuring that scholars are 'fighting fit' when they graduate from the school to pursue their lifelong ambitions.

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