



SSP E-NEWSLETTER

Message from the Acting Executive Director



Laurence Corner

The road ahead...

In the year 2000, Gisbourne, a city in New Zealand was the first to welcome in the new millennium. Many dotcom ventures crashed. Bill Clinton, former US president, announced that accurate GPS access would no longer be restricted to the United States military. Tiger Woods won the 100th US Golf Open by 15 shots, a record for all majors.

In Johannesburg, 25 academically distinguished teenagers from disadvantaged backgrounds were placed at four of the best high schools in South Africa.

The last 10 years have seen more than 900 scholars directly benefiting from their interaction with the Student Sponsorship Programme. The list of achievements of our scholars and alumni is long. In a country where more than 100 000 NGO's are trying to make a difference, we can truly say that SSP has been and continues to be a catalyst for social and economic transformation in SA.

The Students Sponsorship Programme's impact is evident through the eyes of a proud domestic worker as her child makes a speech as the head girl of one of the best private high schools or witnessing a whole community bid farewell to a son of Soweto as he takes up a Nelson Mandela scholarship to Amherst College in the US.

Listening to a boy who herded sheep in the former Transkei talk about his ambition of becoming the CEO of a major corporation tells us that we are still on our journey.

As we look ahead to the next 10 years we want to salute all of our stakeholders who have committed to walk this journey with us.

Celebrations are in order!

By: Sibongile Khumalo, Operations Manager, SSP Eastern Cape



Left: Dr. Saleem Badat – Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes University, Centre: Ms. Akholiwe Ngceba – SSP Alum Class of 2006, Right – Mr. Owen Nel – Headmaster of Clarendon High School for Girls



Gauteng SSP class of 2010

In marking 10 years of existence, it was only fitting that our Class of 2010 be given an appropriate send-off, in true SSP style. We would like to extend gratitude to our sponsors, parents, partner schools, mentors and learners alike for their unwavering support at our biggest celebrations of success. There were many achievements, amongst which, the close to 400 subject distinctions (grade 8 – 12) were the most astounding!

Over 500 guests and scholars who attended the Johannesburg event were hosted at St John's College. Professional motivational speaker and founder of "Black Child it's Possible", Billy Guy Bhembe, gave an inspiring speech urging learners to reach for the highest heights. Our guests of honour, Michael Muendani (Author), Juliet Miyabo (SABC Marketing Manager), Dr

Danny Titus (Executive Director of Afrikaanse Taal en Kultuur Vereeniging) and Vusi Khanyile (CEO of Thebe Holdings) presented various prizes to our top achievers in 2010. The Valedictorian for 2010 was Theresa Mwesigwa of Redhill High School.

Although much fewer in number, the Eastern Cape scholars were not to be outperformed. With only one graduate, Siphesihle Melamane from Hudson Park High School, the spotlight fell on the rest of the scholars to claim reward for their hard work in 2010. In addition, four SSP alumni were recognized for completing their University degrees. One of them, Al Postman (Class of 2006), quite fittingly shared his recipe for success at his alma mater, Selborne College. Our guest speaker, Dr Saleem Badat, spoke very eloquently and fearlessly about the state of South African education, from his perspective as an activist and Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes University. Both these events set the stage for what was to come on February 24th when SSP continued to celebrate the successes of our scholars.

SSP's 10th Year Celebration Dinner Gala, Johannesburg

By: Jerryanne Heath, SSP Director of Development

The year 2010 was an important milestone for SSP – it marked our first decade of success. As we enter our second decade of developing leaders for South Africa, the SSP staff would like to acknowledge our stakeholders that have made our success possible; our Trustees for your leadership, our Scholars and alumni for continually pursuing excellence, our partners and mentors for your tireless work, and our donors for enabling us to fulfill our mission.

Since last year we have held a number of events in celebration of our 10th Anniversary, the grand finale being the gala that took place on 24 February 2011 at Summer Place in Illovo, Johannesburg. Nearly 300 of our stakeholders gathered for a special evening hosted by Master of Ceremonies, CNBC Africa News Anchor Lerato Mbele.

Highlights of the event included an exhilarating performance by multi-award winning singer, Lira; an interactive and fun auction which raised more than R300,000 for SSP; and the moving remarks made by our alumni Lerato Maboya, Thebe Tsatsimpe and Tshepang Mogotsi.

We congratulate our honourees, thank our speakers and express our sincere gratitude to each of our guests for your contributions to the event's success. Photos from the evening are available [here](#).

Please read our [2010 Annual Report](#) for a look back on our first ten years. We look forward to your continued support as we enter the next decade of our programme.



Lira and Lerato Maboya



Lerato Mbele

Watch out world, here comes Theresa Mwesigwa!

By: Lillian Said, Student Programme Officer, SSP Gauteng

With a keen interest in medicine Theresa Mwesigwa, a then tiny 11-year-old Orlando West resident, has never stopped dreaming of becoming a neurosurgeon. Today this courageous young lady with a warm and confident smile is well on her way to realising that dream. Having been accepted to study medicine at UCT in 2011, Theresa settled into varsity life with little discomfort.

In 2006 Theresa received an SSP scholarship to start her secondary school journey at one of Johannesburg's most prestigious high schools, Redhill. She says that as a new shy grade 8 learner she naturally gravitated towards the school library because of her love for reading. At first she was not sure of herself and her new surroundings but she soon found out about the warmth and humility within the school. This helped her find her voice and she has never looked back.

Theresa became the valedictorian of the SSP class of 2010, graduating from high school with no less than 7 distinctions. As the first black head girl at Redhill High School, Theresa knew that her role was to provide leadership, but following her appointment Mr Russell, the Headmaster of the school, made this comment: "I know without a shadow of a doubt that she will continue to make her mark on the school and that her influence on her peers will continue to be positive and inspiring." Many would agree that this is exactly what she has been doing ever since. This was evident at the recent SSP graduation ceremony when her peers led the rest of the audience in giving Theresa a standing ovation.

Throughout her valedictory speech she thanked SSP for the role the programme played in hers and so many others' lives. Now it is our turn to say: "Thank you Theresa for making our jobs worthwhile."



Theresa Mwesigwa

Scholars Development Programme (SDP): Learner Spotlight

By: Meriam Mahlatsi, Programme Officer, SSP Gauteng

The Scholars Development Programme affords learners the opportunity to be better prepared for high school by helping them achieve a high level of self-awareness and confidence in their abilities.

Meet Simphiwe Khubeka a grade 7 learner and one of the 96 scholarship candidates who were selected to be part of the Scholars Development Programme (SDP). It has been a long journey for him; nerves and anxiousness were constant as he awaited the call from Student Sponsorship Programme to say that he had made it into SDP as a scholarship candidate.

Simphiwe lives in Soweto with his aunt, cousin and his younger sister. Simphiwe and his sister lost both their parents at a very tender age. This has however not deterred Simphiwe from being a determined young man who is set on achieving his goals. His confidence in his abilities is attributed to the numerous awards he has received at school for excellence in two of his most favourite subjects, math and English. Simphiwe also loves reading. The most recent book he read was James & the giant

peach by Roald Dahl. "

Getting into this programme has been my greatest achievement", says Simphiwe. He sees it as a reflection of who he is. He is passionate about education and his abilities as a leader.

Simphiwe recently received a Tina Bernard award for being the most caring and loving learner at his school, this ties in with his view of what good leadership means. He believes that a leader is someone who cares for the people he leads by making decisions that will enable them to succeed.

We wish Simphiwe and all his classmates at SDP the best of luck for the year.



Simphiwe Khubeka

School Spotlight

By: Kgaogelo Seemola, Student Programme Officer, SSP Gauteng



St Alban's College

School with a Vision

St Alban's College is a young and vibrant Anglican boys' school. It came into existence on the 1st of February 1963 with a total strength of 37 boys and 3 masters. The school now numbers over 560 boys, over 60 teachers plus an array of support staff.

From its very inception it has been a school that loves a challenge. The founder-Headmaster, Anton Murray, was a South African cricketer who sought to maintain the best traditions of liberal education. An emphasis on well-rounded development prevails, and games such as cricket, rugby and hockey have always figured prominently in their history.

St Alban's has made a name for itself as an innovator, rather than as a preserver. It has pioneered the way in many important areas: opening its doors to boys of colour before it was legal to do so, providing educational upliftment programmes for disadvantaged members of the community, embracing the benefits of technology and its application in education, revising the curriculum and exploring innovative teaching methodologies. It is indeed an exciting school.

Mr Tom Hamilton is the current Headmaster at the College. He has embraced SSP's vision and mission since 2009; there are currently 5 Student Sponsorship Programme Scholars at the college.

Learners at St Alban's College enjoy both academic and extra mural activities that the school has to offer. SSP is proud to be associated with a school of its calibre, a school with a vision.

Sponsor Spotlight



CONVERGENCE
PARTNERS

Convergence Partners is an investment management and advisory firm, focused on the telecommunications, media and technology sector in emerging markets with a principal focus on Africa. While their focus is on South Africa, the rest of Africa and the Middle East they also aim to pursue opportunities that fall within their strategy outside of these areas.

They have a significant investment focus on projects that will improve general access of African corporates and individuals to communications, broadband services and new technology offerings that can improve lives. Convergence Partners have a very well developed sense of their triple bottom line impact. In 2007 they established the Convergence Partners Foundation as a vehicle for the organisation and several of their investees to contribute to social upliftment programmes.

The Student Sponsorship Programme is proud to be one of the partners receiving funding from Convergence Partners. We currently have three scholars studying at some of our partner schools on funding provided by Convergence Partners. Not only have they committed to financial support but have taken a keen interest in the personal development of each of the scholars they sponsor. Through the mentorship programme the Convergence Partners' employees have enabled all their scholars to access information and their network to discover new horizons. They have truly demonstrated their corporate will to make a difference.