

Siyaphambili

YOUNG WOMEN ON THE MOVE

EDUCATION

FILM & MEDIA
STUDIES

LANGUAGES &
CULTURE

PSYCHOLOGY

ENGINEERING & BUILT
ENVIRONMENT

HEALTH SCIENCES
& MEDICINE

INFORMATION
SYSTEMS & COMPUTER
SCIENCE

FINANCE, ECONOMICS
& MATHEMATICS

NATURAL, LIFE
& EARTH SCIENCES



higher education
& training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ISBN: 978-1-77018-765-8

Published by the Department of Higher Education and Training,
Private Bag X895, Pretoria, 0001, Republic of South Africa.

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Produced by Rolaball Eduscript

Siyaphambili

YOUNG WOMEN ON THE MOVE

**The faces of the Carnegie
South Africa
Undergraduate Women's
Scholarship Programme**

“Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mine worker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farmworkers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another.”

Nelson Mandela

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Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks go to the Carnegie Corporation of New York for its generous funding of this unique scholarship programme. Our particular thanks must go to Andrea Johnson, who has seen the scholarship grow from an idea on paper to a fully-fledged programme supporting 150 young women graduates. Andrea's support to the programme has been absolute throughout its nine-year life, and her deep understanding of and commitment to the context and goals of the programme has been powerful and invaluable.

I We are grateful to the following employees of the Department of Education, who initiated the idea of the Scholarship Programme and supported its growth over the years: Edward Mosuwe, who worked on the programme at its inception; Thami Mseleku and Duncan Hindle, both Directors-General of the Department; and Molapo Qhobela and Kirti Menon, the Deputy Directors-General for Higher Education in the later years of the programme.

A special word of thanks goes to Thandi Lewin, the first Scholarship Programme Manager, who continues to mean so much to our young women, for her leadership over the years. Special thanks also goes to Nasima Badsha, the Deputy Director-General for Higher Education during the inception and growth period of the programme, whose vision and passion drove the establishment of the programme and without whom the programme would not have happened. Solly Manaiwa worked as the Programme

Administrator for the scholarship for seven years, and played an extremely important role in its growth and development. For the scholarship recipients, he has been a rock of support.

A further word of thanks goes to John Pampallis, Karen Crisp and Frans Maruma, and the staff of the Centre for Education Policy Development, the grant holder which has administered the Carnegie funds so professionally since 2002. We would also like to thank the many supporters of the scholarship programme at the eight universities, particularly those in the financial aid offices, who supported the programme throughout.

I also wish to thank Firdose Moonda (a Carnegie-South Africa graduate) for her work in making this publication possible; and Dr Patricia Watson for putting the publication together and ensuring that this publication has a broader educational impact for the future.

The Department of Higher Education and Training salutes all the young women of the Carnegie-South Africa Scholarship Programme. We trust the stories of these young women will inspire other young people, and encourage all of us to continue making South Africa a better place.

Rensché Bell
Scholarship Programme Manager, 2010

Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to present this publication to you. *Siyaphambili: Young Women on the Move* tells the stories of the remarkable young women who benefited from the Carnegie-South Africa Undergraduate Women's Scholarship Programme.

The scholarship programme, which has been an excellent showcase for our talent, is now drawing to a close. I do, however, anticipate ongoing benefits, as we will still experience the impact on higher education for years to come, and the stories will serve as an inspiration to other young women and men to take up study opportunities, particularly in areas that are national priorities.

The goals of the programme to support young women at undergraduate level, primarily in the science fields, remain relevant today. Although there has been an improvement in participation by young women in science, there is still a great deal that needs to be done. Several of the priority areas remain key to our national goals. My personal performance agreement with the President of South Africa requires an increase in the number of graduates in science, engineering and technology; life sciences; human and animal health sciences; education; and postgraduate studies in general.

I was delighted to see the achievements of these young achievers in some of these fields. It is exciting to see that many of the Carnegie graduates have continued with postgraduate study and some have entered research careers. Many others are making a significant contribution in their workplaces and to the productivity of the country.

We know, from the experience of this programme and several others, that many young people in South Africa do not have access to adequate career guidance and support. Access to information about post-school study and training opportunities is essential for young people if they are to continue learning, find gainful employment and establish their own livelihoods. The Department of Higher Education and Training has embarked on a major career guidance and support programme to rectify some of the inequities in this area and improve career guidance for further and higher education and training at a national level. This publication is a contribution to that programme.

I hope that readers will find the stories of the young women of the Carnegie-South Africa Undergraduate Women's Scholarship Programme as inspiring as I have. I would like to thank the Carnegie Corporation of New York for their generous funding to the programme, as well as their support for the production of this booklet.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "B E Nzimande". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Dr B E Nzimande

Minister of Higher Education and Training

Introduction

THE FACES OF THE CARNEGIE-SOUTH AFRICA UNDERGRADUATE WOMEN'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

■ WHY A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME?

The Carnegie-South Africa Undergraduate Women's Scholarship Programme was established in 2002, as part of the South African government's strategy for the transformation of the higher education system to meet a range of social, economic and human resource development goals: those of a rapidly developing and transforming society. (The programme is hereafter referred to as the Carnegie-South Africa Scholarship programme, or the Scholarship Programme.)

One of the key goals identified in higher education policy documents is to provide a full spectrum of advanced educational opportunities to a greater number of South Africans, particularly those who have struggled to access higher education in the past and in areas where they are under-represented.

In particular, despite increasing parity between men and women at all levels of the South African education system, women continue to be under-represented in the fields of science, engineering and technology. As one strategy towards addressing these imbalances, the Department of Education approached the Carnegie Corporation of New York (hereafter referred to as Carnegie) for funding to provide full university scholarships to three cohorts of 50 young women each, recruited over three consecutive years from 2003 to 2005.

In 2002, Carnegie committed full funding for these scholarships as part of its International Development programme, and its strategy of enhancing women's educational opportunities at African universities by increasing the number of women who enter undergraduate programmes through the provision of scholarships in targeted fields of study. The total value of the investment by Carnegie totals \$6 309 700 over the 10-year existence of the programme.

Priority fields of study were identified as those in which women students are significantly under-represented, and in which there are national skills shortages. These areas of study were identified as: Science (including the Health Sciences); Engineering and Technology (Information and Communication Technology); Economics, Business and Commerce; and Education. The Carnegie-South Africa Scholarship recipients therefore represent a diversity of fields of study.

■ MORE ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

The Carnegie scholarship recipients were recruited and selected to reflect the demographic realities of the South African context, as is evident in the diversity of backgrounds of the 150 students selected. This group of students included young women who had studied for their matric exams by candlelight, with their families dependent on social grants. There are many who worked on a computer for the first time at university, and a significant number who are the first in their families to obtain a university degree.

By June 2010, a total of 114 of the 150 students had completed their first degrees, with 22 still studying; and 14 who had followed other paths. It has been a source of some disappointment that, despite full and generous funding, a small number of students did not complete their studies. Of the 14, three students have, however, gone on to complete their studies at other universities. There are many reasons why students in South African universities take a break or fail to complete their studies, and although financial support is clearly one of these, it is not the only one. The research conducted by the Carnegie-South Africa Programme, in partnership with the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), examined some

of these factors. This publication, entitled, *Gender, Identity and Institutional Culture: Women Students' Constructions of Success at three South African Universities*, was published in 2009 and is available from the HSRC (www.hsrc.ac.za).

One of the terms of the Scholarship agreement was that recipients would remain in the country after graduating to contribute their time and skills to help build the South African community. With the exception of two graduates, the majority of recipients are either continuing to study at senior postgraduate level, or are employed in South Africa. One of those overseas is studying towards a Masters at the Royal School of Music in Manchester, England. The other is a Junior Chemical Engineer at Noble Denton Norge, a global engineering and marine consulting firm in Oslo, Norway. By reading the stories of the graduates, you will have a sense of the contribution they are making to the South African economy and society.

The Carnegie-South Africa Scholarship Programme provided both formal and informal support to its students. A Career Development workshop was held for each new intake of students before they began their university studies, and occasional follow-up workshops were held on a regional basis. These workshops focused on preparing students for the full university experience, including providing advice on budgeting. Students were advised to stay in university accommodation, wherever possible, in order to make optimum use of all the university facilities and amenities, and to participate fully in university activities. Many took advantage of this where they could.

■ CELEBRATING A VISION COME ALIVE

This publication has been put together for two important reasons. One is so that you can meet the young women of the Carnegie-South Africa Scholarship Programme and hear their stories, which are without a doubt an inspiring read.

The second reason is to produce a publication that can be used widely in South Africa as a career guidance and support tool. We hope that the stories of these dynamic young achievers provide some guidance and pointers for other young South Africans and those working with young people. Perhaps you are still at school; maybe you have left school but are looking for post-school education and training opportunities; maybe you have dreams of a career in one of these areas, but don't know how to go about it. Hopefully there is something in here for you – something that inspires you or links you to a possibility.

Siyaphambili: Young Women on the Move celebrates the perseverance of the students who are still studying, and those who have graduated and taken their rightful places in the employment sector. We hope that their stories will serve as an inspiration to young, aspiring scientists, engineers, health care workers, economists and teachers.

Siyaphambili: Young Women on the Move is also a tribute to the Carnegie Corporation of New York and its generous support to this programme. We hope that others will be inspired by what they see here to fund bursaries and scholarships so that South Africa can realise its full potential through more programmes like this one.

CONTACT THE NATIONAL CAREER ADVICE HELPLINE

0860 111 673

<http://www.nqf.org.za/page/news/628040-SAQA-launches-a-National-Career-Advice-Helpline>

Education

ed·u·ca·tion

[ej-oo-key-shuhn]

—**noun**

1. the act or process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge, developing the powers of reasoning and judgment, and generally of preparing oneself or others intellectually for mature life.
2. the act or process of imparting or acquiring particular knowledge or skills, as for a profession.
3. a degree, level, or kind of schooling: a university education.
4. the result produced by instruction, training, or study: to show one's education.
5. the science or art of teaching; pedagogics.

Origin:

1525–35; (< MF) < L *ēducātiōn-* (s. of *ēducātiō*), equiv. to *ēducāt* (us) (see *educate*) + *-iōn-* *-ion*

—**Related forms**

an·ti·ed·u·ca·tion, adjective; *non·ed·u·ca·tion*, noun; *o·ver·ed·u·ca·tion*, noun; *pre·ed·u·ca·tion*, noun; *pro·ed·u·ca·tion*, adjective; *su·per·ed·u·ca·tion*, noun

—**Synonyms**

1. instruction, schooling, learning. *Education*, *training* imply a discipline and development by means of study and learning. *Education* is the development of the abilities of the mind (learning to know): a liberal education. *Training* is practical education (learning to do) or practice, usually under supervision, in some art, trade, or profession: training in art, teacher training. 4. learning, knowledge, enlightenment. *Education*, *culture* are often used interchangeably to mean the results of schooling. *Education*, however, suggests chiefly the information acquired. *Culture* is a mode of thought and feeling encouraged by education. It suggests an aspiration toward, and an appreciation of high intellectual and esthetic ideals: The level of culture in a country depends upon the education of its people.

THEMBEKILE ZWANE
LANGUAGES
UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Thembekile Zwane grew up in Claremont in Durban and matriculated with five distinctions from Sithengile Secondary School. She applied to the University of KwaZulu-Natal to study a Bachelor of Arts in Languages, specialising in English – even though this is not her first language.

Zwane stayed at home for her first year of studies. However, in her second year she realised it would be easier to access all the facilities on campus if she stayed in residence, so she moved.

Her biggest challenge was mastering English. She spent a lot of time in consultation with lecturers after classes and her extra effort paid off: she graduated with five distinctions. She went on to do her Honours in Linguistics.

Zwane has become such an expert in the English language that she teaches English at her old school. She discovered that she was a passionate educator while at university. She believes she has the qualities to succeed as an educator because she understands where the learners come from and tries to foster good relationships with them. However, despite her love for passing on knowledge, her job is challenging because sometimes she is motivated to teach, but the pupils are not as motivated to learn.

Zwane would like to continue working for the Department of Basic Education and wants to become an education specialist within the next 10 years.



Thembekile encourages new students to become teachers. It's a very rewarding profession.

LINDSEY JAMES
BACHELOR OF MUSIC (EDUCATION)
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Lindsey James matriculated from Pinelands High School in Cape Town with six distinctions. She was accepted at the University of Cape Town to study for a Bachelor of Music (Education), specialising in playing the flute.

James stayed at home for the first two years of her studies, and then spent just one semester in residence before travelling to Sweden on an exchange programme. She enjoyed living at home, although it did make her feel isolated from university life and her family sometimes distracted her from her studies.

While James was an academically strong student, she struggled with self-confidence and went through a period of depression and anxiety. However, she believed in her ability and found studying to be a rewarding experience. She graduated cum laude with 24 distinctions.

She is currently studying for her Masters at the Royal School of Music in London. James finds her course-work challenging, particularly having to develop her own interpretations of music.

James would like to return to South Africa and play in a professional orchestra. She is also considering studying for a Doctorate in Flute Performance and Music Research.

James says that university is not just about academic work, but is a holistic experience that should “develop your potential as a human being”.



Her advice to new students is to find a study routine that suits them and to stick to it, because university will present them with an overwhelming number of ways to spend their time.



LIESL KROUCAMP

EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Liesl Kroucamp wanted to become a teacher ever since she was in high school. She matriculated from Kuswag High School in Durban with four distinctions and applied to the University of KwaZulu-Natal to study for a Bachelor of Education degree.

Unlike many students who advocate staying in residence, Kroucamp is not in favour of living at a university. She chose to stay at home while studying because she felt that security was lax on campus.

Kroucamp is currently employed as a Grade 1 Educator at Doon Heights Primary School in Amanzimtoti. She enjoys teaching young children, but would like to work with students in more senior grades in the future. She says her job is made particularly challenging by limitations and shortcomings in the Department of Basic Education. As a result, Kroucamp cites patience as one of the most important personality traits to succeed in her career.

She hopes to further her studies soon at Potchefstroom University with an Honours degree in Child Psychology.

Liesl advises new students to stay at home during their studies, but to keep in touch with on-campus activities by joining social clubs. She also recommends that students take a gap year after school and use the time to shadow someone working in the field they are interested in to learn more about it.

Andri's advice to new students is to make sure they get the mix right between studying hard and socialising.

ANDRI MASURET

EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE

Andri Masuret is a single child whose mother is a teacher, and was raised in Kroonstad in the Free State province. She matriculated from Kroonstad High School with five distinctions. She chose to study for a Bachelor of Education degree, specialising in the Foundation Phase, at the Free State University, the closest tertiary institution to her home.

Despite the university being comparatively close to her home, she still had to move into the residence. Because of her particularly strong bond with her parents, she initially found it difficult to cope with her new circumstances. But, with time, Masuret made a lot of good friends in residence who supported her throughout her years at university.

Masuret successfully completed her studies, graduating with 40 distinctions.

Currently, Masuret is a teacher at Kroonheuwel Primary School in Kroonstad, where she is in charge of the four-year-olds. She loves little children, and has ambitions to set up her own education facilities for children with learning difficulties in the future. She would also like to study Play Therapy.

WILMARIE POTGIETER

EDUCATION, STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

Wilmarie Potgieter matriculated with seven distinctions. She always wanted to be a teacher because she enjoys working with children, and was accepted by Stellenbosch University to study for a Bachelor of Education degree, specialising in Mathematics.

She stayed at the university residence throughout her studies and enjoyed her time there. Potgieter completed her degree successfully, and says her personal recipe to academic success was to compete against oneself; to live a balanced life between work and play; and to stay focused on one's goals.

Now working as a teacher, Potgieter has found that the children don't always enjoy school as much as she does. She says it's tough to get them to stay motivated and to pay attention. It's also a challenge to teach children discipline.

Luckily for Potgieter, she retains her sense of humour - an essential quality, she says, to keep her enjoying her job. She also attributes her success as a teacher to being patient and warm towards her students. Her message to them is that they can be anything they want to be in life, with a lot of hard work and determination.

Wilmarie's ambition is to specialise in Learning Support for Mathematics, and to help her students develop a deeper love and understanding of the subject.

BERYLENE WEST

EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE

Berylene West grew up in Hopetown, in the Northern Cape, and matriculated from Hoërskool Hopetown with distinction. West initially wanted to be an Accountant but ultimately applied to the University of the Free State to study for a Bachelor of Education.

She stayed in university residence and found the adjustment in her first year difficult. Once she had got used to being away from home, though, she appreciated the convenience of staying on campus.

West graduated with 40 distinctions and now teaches Grade 1 pupils at Olympia Primary School in Bloemfontein. She says the biggest challenge in her job is teaching children to read and write in a language that is not their mother-tongue - the school's medium of instruction is Afrikaans, while many of the learners are seSotho-speaking. West would like to explore the possibility of mother-tongue teaching in the future.

She is currently doing her Honours in Education, and has ambitions to do a Masters degree and a Doctorate in the future. She sees herself one day lecturing at her alma mater, the University of the Free State.



Her advice to new students is to know and respect themselves, and never to forget their upbringing.

She advises new students to take care to achieve a healthy work/life balance, particularly in their first year.

BARBARA ALBERTS (NOW KOTZE)
BIOCHEMISTRY AND EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG

Barbara Alberts matriculated with five distinctions from Raucall High School in Johannesburg. She enrolled at the University of Johannesburg (UJ) to study for a Bachelor of Science degree, always intending to go on to teach Science as a subject.

She stayed at home during her studies and doesn't regret her choice, particularly because a lot of her friends struggled academically because they became preoccupied with compulsory residence activities.

Alberts had to repeat one of her subjects in her second year, which she describes as her most difficult tertiary experience. A highlight, though, was that it was also the year she met her boyfriend, who is now her husband.

After completing her first degree, Alberts did a post-graduate Certificate in Education before completing her Honours in Education, achieving 14 distinctions in the course of her studies.

Her life has come full circle as she is now back at Raucall High, but this time as a teacher. Alberts sees her role as being both an educator and a mentor. Learners bring problems to her that are not always education-related and depend on her for help. She has also found that disciplining older children is more difficult.

Alberts has ambitions of completing her Masters in Education and returning to UJ as a lecturer.

Her advice to new students is to choose a degree that is marketable, and not one that will make it difficult for them to find employment, because everyone wants to get a job after they study.

SARAH ELLIOT
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Sarah Elliot grew up in Port Elizabeth and matriculated from Victoria Park High with straight As. She moved to the University of Pretoria to do a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences with the aim of becoming a Veterinarian.

She moved into the university residence and enjoyed her stay, making good friends that she is still in touch with. She found it difficult to keep up with all the residence activities, however, and grew homesick at times.

Elliot had her undergraduate studies interrupted for six months when she contracted glandular fever and had to have her tonsils removed. Nonetheless, she graduated successfully, having changed her major to Genetics.

Elliot went on to complete an Honours degree in Microbiology, a Post-Graduate Diploma in Education, and an Honours degree in Education.

While doing her Honours in her second field of study at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth, Elliot was headhunted by Grey High School as a Biology teacher, which is where she works now. She says that she needs to learn to demand authority from the all-male students since, by doing so, she believes she will earn their respect.

Elliot would like to stay in the education field and hopes to complete her Masters in the future.



Film & Media Studies

film

[film]

–*noun*

1. a strip of transparent material, usually cellulose triacetate, covered with a photographic emulsion and perforated along one or both edges, intended for the recording and reproduction of images.
- b. a similar perforated strip covered with an iron oxide emulsion (magfilm), intended for the recording and reproduction of both images and sound.
- c. motion picture.

–*verb*

1. Movies .
 - a. to photograph with a motion-picture camera.
 - b. to reproduce in the form of motion pictures: to film a novel.

Origin:

bef. 1000; 1890–95 for def. 6; 1900–05 for def. 7; ME filme, OE filmen membrane; akin to fell4

*Dictionary.com Unabridged
Based on the Random House Dictionary, © Random House, Inc. 2010.*

me·di·a

[mee-dee-uh]

–*noun*

1. a pl. of medium.
2. (usually used with a plural verb) the means of communication, as radio and television, newspapers, and magazines, that reach or influence people widely: The media are covering the speech tonight.

–*adjective*

3. pertaining to or concerned with such means: a job in media research.

Origin:

1835–45; < LL (grammar sense only), n. use of fem. sing. of L medius central, mid

*Dictionary.com Unabridged
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MISHKA DARIES
FILM AND MEDIA STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Mishka Daries matriculated with three distinctions from Harold Cressy High School in Cape Town a little confused about which study path to take. She was initially interested in Medicine, but couldn't stand the sight of blood. So, with a Carnegie Scholarship secured, she was accepted at the University of Cape Town to study Microbiology instead.

She stayed at home for the duration of her studies and never considered residence as an option, because she would miss home conveniences - and her mother's cooking.

But things didn't go according to plan for Daries, and she failed her first year so badly that Carnegie almost gave up on her. That failure was a bitter pill to swallow, but she had a stroke of good fortune, and Carnegie allowed her to change to a Bachelor of Arts in Film and Media Studies. She chose this direction because she worked part-time at a radio station and loved it. Daries had finally made the correct decision, and graduated with two distinctions.

Daries is now following her passion and her dream, and finds her job rewarding in every sense. She works as a Senior Producer and Supervisor at the Voice of the Cape. She has also opened a media services and marketing business with a friend.

Her advice to new students is to be sure of what to study and not to be pushed into a field they don't want to be in. She advocates job-shadowing as a way of finding out more about a potential future career.



Languages & Culture

lan·guage

[lang-gwij]

–noun

1. a system for the expression of thoughts, feelings, etc, by the use of spoken sounds or conventional symbols
 2. the faculty for the use of such systems, which is a distinguishing characteristic of man as compared with other animals
 3. the language of a particular nation or people: the French language
 4. any other systematic or nonsystematic means of communicating, such as gesture or animal sounds: the language of love
 5. the specialized vocabulary used by a particular group: medical language
 6. a particular manner or style of verbal expression: your language is disgusting
 7. computing See programming language
 8. speak the same language to communicate with understanding because of common background, values, etc
- [C13: from Old French langage, ultimately from Latin lingua tongue]

Collins English Dictionary - Complete & Unabridged 10th Edition. 2009 © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009

cul·ture

[kuhl-cher]

noun, verb

1. the quality in a person or society that arises from a concern for what is regarded as excellent in arts, letters, manners, scholarly pursuits, etc.
2. that which is excellent in the arts, manners, etc.
3. a particular form or stage of civilization, as that of a certain nation or period: Greek culture.
4. development or improvement of the mind by education or training.
5. the behaviors and beliefs characteristic of a particular social, ethnic, or age group: the youth culture; the drug culture.
6. Anthropology . the sum total of ways of living built up by a group of human beings and transmitted from one generation to another.
7. Biology .
 - a. the cultivation of microorganisms, as bacteria, or of tissues, for scientific study, medicinal use, etc.
 - b. the product or growth resulting from such cultivation.
8. the act or practice of cultivating the soil; tillage.
9. the raising of plants or animals, esp. with a view to their improvement.
10. the product or growth resulting from such cultivation.

Dictionary.com Unabridged Based on the Random House Dictionary, © Random House, Inc. 2010.

LIZE-MARIE VAN DER WATT **LANGUAGE AND CULTURE** **STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY**

Lize-Marie van der Watt matriculated fourth in her class Oranje Meisies Hoerskool in the Free State. Having been granted a Carnegie scholarship, she was able to fulfil her dream of studying Humanities and Social Sciences, specialising in History, at Stellenbosch University.

Throughout her undergraduate degree, she stayed at the university residence and recommends it to female students in particular. She found it easy to organise study groups and share notes while in residence.

Van der Watt obtained her undergraduate degree cum laude and went on to post-graduate study. Publishing her first academic paper was a major highlight in her university career.

While doing her Masters degree, she stayed in a flat next door to a person who brandished the old South African flag and played the song “de la Rey” repeatedly. Van der Watt couldn’t bring non-white friends to visit and, after three weeks of living there, she moved out.

Her Doctorate in History may mean she understands the mentality of her racist former-neighbour better than most, but the incident was the sole blot on an otherwise highly satisfying university career for van der Watt.

Van der Watt wants to continue working as an academic and publishing papers, and her ambition is to become a professor and to lecture. She would also like to do research for non-governmental organisations.



Lize-Marie values education, advising young people that it will help them make the best-informed decisions in their lives.

Psychology

psy·chol·o·gy

[sahy-kol-uh-jee]

–*noun, plural* -gies.

1. the science of the mind or of mental states and processes.
2. the science of human and animal behavior.
3. the sum or characteristics of the mental states and processes of a person or class of persons, or of the mental states and processes involved in a field of activity: the psychology of a soldier; the psychology of politics.
4. mental ploys or strategy: He used psychology on his parents to get a larger allowance.

Origin:

1675–85; < NL *psychologia*. See *psycho-*, *-logy*

—*Related forms*

pre-psy·chol·o·gy, noun

—*Can be confused*

psychiatry, psychology, psychoanalysis, psychotherapy.

—*Definition*

Study of the mind; emotional and mental constitution.

—*Synonyms:*

Attitude, behaviorism, medicine, mental make-up, mental processes, personality study, psych, science of the mind, therapy, way of thinking, where head is at.

KRISHANTHA CHETTY**PSYCHOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL**

Krishantha Chetty is blind, and was a shy, reserved school girl, matriculating from Arthur Blaxall School for the Blind in KwaZulu-Natal with one distinction. She applied for a Carnegie scholarship thanks to a social worker at her school who believed that, beneath her reserved manner, Chetty had a lot to offer and deserved to experience university life.

Having been granted a scholarship, she was accepted to do a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She stayed at home during the course of her studies because of the poor facilities available for students with disabilities. Chetty faced additional problems in her second year when she struggled to get a tutor for one of her courses, and she felt she was not receiving support from the lecturers.

Chetty says it was all thanks to the support she got from family, friends and the Carnegie Scholarship Office that she graduated with four distinctions. The day she was awarded her degree was the most important in her life. Her motivation and determination, even in the face of adversity, had at last paid off.

Chetty is currently completing her Masters degree in Industrial Psychology. She is prepared to work in either the public or private sector, as long as she is close to home.



Her message for all the youth in South Africa is that they must realise that the only way you progress in life is to make it happen for yourself.

KRISTY GREENER**PSYCHOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL**

Kirsty Greener was born blind, and grew up in Durban on the sugar cane farms where her father worked. She matriculated from Arthur Blaxall School for the Blind with two distinctions and was offered a scholarship by Carnegie.

She chose to do a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, but stayed at home with her parents because she needed special care. Greener also needed specific study material for blind students and found that difficult to find. In her experience, the university does not offer much support to blind students.

In addition to the challenges that come with being blind, Greener faced the same pressures most new students encounter. But with support from family, friends and the Carnegie Office, Greener graduated cum laude. She regards her graduation - when she received a standing ovation - as the most defining moment of her life so far.

Greener is currently doing her internship at Greys Hospital, and is also in the final stages of her Masters degree. She enjoys practicing Psychology in the public sector and would like to continue to do so. Her job is challenging because she has patients with very serious problems who think there are quick solutions. Patience and passion are the two qualities Greener believes will make her successful in her occupation.

Her advice to first-year students is to be disciplined, and realise that no-one will be chasing them around to make sure they get to their lectures.

Engineering & Built Environment

en·gi·neer·ing

[en-juh-neer-ing]

—**noun**

1. the art or science of making practical application of the knowledge of pure sciences, as physics or chemistry, as in the construction of engines, bridges, buildings, mines, ships, and chemical plants.
2. the action, work, or profession of an engineer.
3. skillful or artful contrivance; maneuvering.

Origin:

1710–20; engineer + -ing

—**Related forms**

non-en-gi-neer-ing, *noun, adjective*

pre-en-gi-neer-ing, *adjective*

—**Definition**

1. The act of turning material to use.
2. The science of applying power to use

—**Synonyms**

1. Arranging, authorizing, building, constructing, construction, handling, implementing, manufacturing, organization, organizing, systematization, systematizing.
2. Architecture, blueprinting, design, installations, metallurgy, planning, structure, structures, surveying.

LORINDA BEZUIDENHOUT
ARCHITECTURE, THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Lorinda Bezuidenhout grew up in Middelburg, Mpumalanga, where she matriculated from Middelburg Technical High School with four distinctions. She was accepted to study Architecture by the University of Pretoria.

Bezuidenhout spent two years in the main university residence and the last three at the university house. She made many friends, and took so much pleasure from the experience that she recommends all students spend at least a year in residence while at university.

She seldom had tough experiences while under the care of Carnegie, but found that doing her Masters was the most difficult time in her student career. The workload became unbearable and only extreme discipline and perseverance pulled her through.

She's currently employed by Thomashoff and Partners Architects as a Technical Assistant. Her work involves appraising government documents, developing urban design projects, and doing a lot of graphic design. She sees many avenues for growth in her career. Furniture design is the area she would like to specialise in, but Bezuidenhout wants to build up enough experience in the industry before venturing out on her own.

Bezuidenhout says her work/life balance is exceptional, and in her spare time she plays netball and goes to the gym.



She has been to several schools to motivate learners to pursue future study, and hopes that a scholarship programme like the one she benefited from will be made available to more students.

LEHLOGONOLO CHILOANE
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Lehlogonolo Chiloane was born and raised in Bushbuckridge, Limpopo, matriculating with one distinction from Orhovhelani High School. She was accepted by the University of Cape Town to study Chemical Engineering.

For the first couple of years of her degree, she stayed in university residence, only moving into a flat when she was a more senior student. Although she enjoyed her stay in residence, she found it a bit overcrowded. She enjoys the freedoms that go with staying in her flat and enjoys cooking for herself.

Chiloane's most thrilling moment at university so far was when she walked onto that stage to get her first degree.

She is currently doing her Masters and says she has got this far in her studies through sheer hard work. She encounters problems, just like any other student, but she works to her strengths and focuses on the positives.

In 10 years time, she sees herself as being a successful business woman in the energy field.



Her advice to new students is to adjust to university life as quickly as possible and be prepared to work even harder than at school. She also recommends that students balance their hard work with a rewarding social life.

She believes strongly in the value of education and, just as she was encouraged to study further, she wants to motivate others to do the same. Her advice to new students is to research all potential careers as thoroughly as they can.

ASHLENE CLAASEN
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Ashlene Claasen matriculated from Spine Road High School in Claremont, Cape Town with three distinctions. She was awarded a Carnegie scholarship and accepted to study for a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering at the University of Cape Town.

Because her family lived in the area, Claasen stayed at home for the duration of her studies and, while she enjoyed it, Claasen says she would have enjoyed the challenge of independence that comes with living in residence.

Being a student was a difficult experience for Claasen, who found that the volume of work consumed her. She had little time for much else and, because she saw herself as “not the brightest student around”, she worked very hard to succeed. Her goal-driven personality helped her to complete her degree over an extended period with satisfactory marks.

She dedicates her degree to her late aunt, who passed away before she graduated. Claasen’s extended family means a lot in her life, and she cites her uncle, the only one in her family to complete a degree before her, as her inspiration.

She now works as an Engineer-in-Training at BP South Africa. Claasen would like to do a Masters in Business Studies in the future.



NAWAAL DAWOOD
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Nawaal Dawood was raised in the historically disadvantaged township of Mitchells Plain in Cape Town, and through ability and determination matriculated with one distinction from Spine Road Secondary School. Her results were good enough for her to be awarded a Carnegie scholarship and a place at the University of Cape Town (UCT) to study Chemical Engineering.

She stayed at home for the duration of her studies, which she enjoyed and she doesn’t regret not staying in the university residence. She found the transition from school to tertiary education difficult, but she persevered and believes that she eventually struck a winning balance between studying and socialising.

She graduated from UCT with five distinctions and currently works as a Trainee Validation Engineer at Fine Chemicals Corporation. This entails validating equipment that is used in the production of active pharmaceutical ingredients, and she chose this particular job because she wanted something challenging. Dawood would like to open her own consulting company in the future.

Dawood’s success has already inspired a younger student from Spine Road Secondary School: Ashlene Claasen, who was inspired to excel in her school work when she heard about Dawood being awarded a Carnegie scholarship. Claasen was eventually awarded her own Carnegie scholarship.

CEBISILE DLAMINI
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Having matriculated from Highveld Park High School in Mpumalanga with two distinctions, Cebisile Dlamini was accepted to study Chemical Engineering at the University of Pretoria.

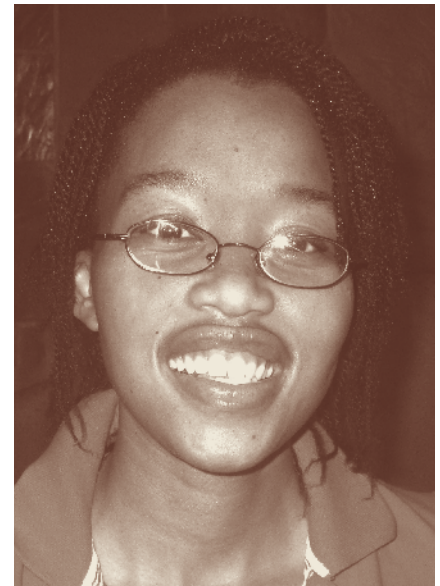
As successful as Dlamini had been at high school, she failed her first test at university despite studying hard, and immediately got the message that tertiary education was not going to be an easy ride. But despite this early setback, she says her eventual success had everything to do with perseverance, helped also by her enduring love for her area of study.

Dlamini experienced a massive lifestyle change when she moved into residence for the first years of her study. Although there were a lot of compulsory residence activities to attend, which cut into study time, Dlamini recommends that students spent at least one year at a university residence. She says it helps with discovering campus life and forming friendships.

She moved into a flat after two years in residence and found it benefited her studies because she could allocate more time to her studies.

Dlamini required a fifth year to complete her degree, partly because her life was hit by an unexpected tragedy when her mother was diagnosed with cancer. However, Dlamini's mother underwent successful treatment and lived to see her daughter complete her degree.

She is currently completing the graduate programme at BP.



Dlamini says she is grateful that Carnegie afforded her the opportunity to change both her own and her family's life by financing her university education.

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ALMA ENGELBRECHT
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

For Alma Engelbrecht, it all began at Piketberg High School in the Western Cape, where she matriculated with seven distinctions. With the help of career counselling, she decided that Engineering was the field for her. She was accepted by Stellenbosch University to study Chemical Engineering.

The most important skill Engelbrecht learnt while at university was the value of effective time-management. She says that the more demanding one's chosen course, the more important it becomes to find a proper balance between work and recreation.

Having successfully completed her undergraduate degree, Engelbrecht went on to study for her Masters. With this degree under her belt, she was employed by Hydro Aluminium Hycast, and moved to Norway in Europe.

She finds the biggest challenge is to balance the administrative demands of her job with her own long-term growth plans. Her solution has been to spend half her working day managing her current projects, and the other half with research, report writing and analysis. Numbers are an important part of her job, and the background in statistics she has from university has been the most useful tool in her career.

Engelbrecht would like to advance herself by specialising further in her field, or through studies in the field of Economic Management.



Engelbrecht is convinced in the value of education – not only because it opens up great work opportunities, but also because those who study are better equipped to rise above adversity.



Her advice to new students is to have fun, never to skip classes, be aware of where they come from, and to know where they are going to.

PALESA HLANYANE
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Palesa Hlanyane matriculated from Beverly Hills High School in Evaton, Gauteng, with five distinctions, and was accepted to study Chemical Engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand.

She stayed at home for the first year of her studies, but was expected to cook and travel long distances, which made concentrating on her coursework challenging. Hlanyane moved into residence in her second year and started enjoying her time at university a lot more.

But just as things were getting better, she failed Process Engineering, a very tough module, and had to repeat it. The initial failure motivated her to work even harder, and she passed on the second attempt. After completing an extra year of study, she graduated with four distinctions.

Hlanyane currently works at Afrisam SA as an Engineer-in-Training. Her job involves using heavy equipment and is not a field of employment one would expect to find a young woman in. Afrisam's training programme allows graduates to work in various departments in the company for 18 months. The bulk of the work focuses on the graduates' area of expertise so that at the end of the training period, they achieve professional status. Hlanyane would one day like to be registered with the Engineering Council of South Africa.



She advises new students to join clubs and societies and enjoy their time at university, while never forgetting the main reason they are there.

LORHREN JOSEPH
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

Lorhren Joseph got lucky when she saw the Carnegie scholarship form on the desk of the school secretary at Douglas High School, the Northern Cape, and asked if she could have it, knowing that it was the only way she'd get to university.

Carnegie got lucky, too, as they found a solid student in Joseph. Having matriculated from Douglas High with four distinctions, she was accepted by Stellenbosch University to study for a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering.

She moved into university residence and was immediately uncomfortable with having to share her space. Joseph was used to having her own room and bathroom, and didn't like the idea of communal living. But within weeks she'd changed her mind and made many firm friends in residence.

Although she struggled in her first year, Joseph graduated with good results. Her grandfather, who was passionate about learning - even though he'd never learnt to read - passed away before he could see her graduate. She dedicates her degree to him.

She has taken a new direction in her working life, currently completing an internship with the National Research Foundation, where she works in agro-processing and development. She wants to move even further away from her area of study and become a film producer in the future. Her creative spirit is evident in one of her favourite pastimes, making art.

KHOMOTSO MAELANE
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Khomotso Maelane was fortunate enough to attend Glen Cawie High in Limpopo, which is part of the Historic Schools Restoration Project. This project recognises a number of schools that provided quality education to black South Africans prior to the Bantu Education Act in 1953, and aims to restore them to the prestigious centres of learning they once were.

Maelane matriculated with two distinctions and was accepted to study for a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering by the University of the Witwatersrand.

For the first two years of her course, she lived in a women's-only residence. While conditions were in many ways conducive to studying, Maelane failed both her first and second year. She admits that the reason for this was that she wasn't disciplined enough and didn't spend enough time studying. She subsequently moved into private accommodation and made a conscious effort to change her studying lifestyle. She joined a study group, and she started opening up to her lecturers about areas she was struggling in.

She is now in her final year, which she is funding herself, and expects to complete her degree at the end of 2010. Maelane hopes to start work next year, but, for the moment, she is enjoying life as a born-again Christian, spending her spare time as a volunteer, caring for homeless people.



Maelane's advice to students is not to hesitate to talk to lecturers if they don't understand the course content.

GOBAKWE MAEMA
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

After matriculating from the Holy Family Combined High School in Rustenburg with three distinctions, Gobakwe Maema fulfilled her long-term dream of studying Chemical Engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Maema moved into residence, which was a rewarding experience because of its convenience, safety and easy access to resources. Her studies took a knock when she suffered from Neuritis had what she calls a "brain block" during which she was booked off for two weeks. As a result, she failed two courses in her third year.

Despite not completing her degree, Maema was offered a job by Lafarge Cement, and started professional life as a Graduate Process Engineer. She then became a Process Engineer, and has since been promoted to Process Leader. Being a young manager is one of the greatest challenges of her job because she has to know people's strengths and weaknesses and assist in their development. Maema's main job is to guide the process team to make sure that the plant processes are being optimised.

She would like to study Financial Economics in the future and complete a Masters of Business Administration. She is also planning to start a motivational programme for primary school children in rural areas because she believes that, with a solid foundation, anything is possible.

Her advice to new students is not to be overwhelmed by their first few lectures. They must accept that they may have some sleepless nights trying to complete their work and understand that that is just part of being a student.



Her advice to new students is to be honest about where their strenghts lie.

SHANELLE MAHAS
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Shanelle Mahas matriculated from Dr A D Lazarus High School in Durban with four distinctions and was awarded a Carnegie scholarship, which eased the pressure on her mother who was already putting two of her brothers through university. She was accepted to study Mechanical Engineering by the University of the Witwatersrand.

She stayed in the university residence and found it tough to adjust: it took her almost two years before she felt comfortable being away from home.

Mahas had to repeat both her second and her third year and regards this as her most difficult experience. She eventually accepted her own shortcomings and decided that she had to work smarter, although not necessarily harder.

She is in her final year of study in 2010, which she is mainly funding herself. However, because of the positive improvement in her marks, Carnegie agreed to give her some financial support by leaving a big portion of her credit from 2009 in her fee account for her final year.



Her advice to new students is to manage their time properly. Even though their studies are important, they must make time for social events as well.

MARTHA MAHLATJI
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Martha Mahlatji grew up in Mankweng, just outside Polokwane in Limpopo, and matriculated with four distinctions from Makgoka High School. She was accepted by the University of Cape Town (UCT) to study Electrical Engineering.

Mahlatji was particularly impressed by her welcome to UCT. Shuttles collected new students from the bus stop and took them straight to their residences where they settled in in no time. The residence's facilities and resources were top class and she bonded well with her fellow students. She stayed in residence until her final year, when she moved into a flat.

Her first year was very challenging. Since she came from a rural area and a disadvantaged school, she soon felt how real those disadvantages were in an institution like UCT. She had to work extra hard to get to the level of other students and the level demanded by university.

However, she passed all but one module in her first year. She attributes her success to very hard work and sacrificing a lot of sleep. Her graduation was a proud moment both for her and her whole family.

She is currently an Engineer-in-Training at Eskom in the Western Cape. Once she is a qualified and registered Engineer, she would like to do a Project Management course. In about 10 years time, she sees herself being in a management position at an engineering company.

TINY MATODZI
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Tiny Matodzi matriculated from Thengwe High School in Venda with two distinctions. She always knew she wanted to study Mechanical Engineering and was accepted to do so at the University of the Witwatersrand.

She moved into university residence but found some of the conditions in student flats appalling, preferring to live in alternative accommodation. Matodzi carefully planned her studies, reading the theory before each lecture, and making sure to go through past papers and do academic exercises before exams. To make time for all of this, she would get to bed early and wake up at midnight to begin work.

But despite her meticulous efforts, she didn't meet the minimum academic requirements in her third year and was excluded from Wits University. However, she continued with her studies at the University of Johannesburg – although without Carnegie funding – and successfully graduated.

Currently, she works as a Drilling Engineer at Sasol. She didn't know anything about the job when she was interviewed for it but took it anyway because it sounded fascinating. It proved to be the right choice, although it involves travelling to remote areas.

Matodzi would like to progress eventually to become the Project Manager for well drilling projects, but this needs years of work experience and additional qualifications. She plans to do a Masters in Well Engineering to achieve this aim.



Her advice to new students is to work to a plan. Be ahead of the lectures and ask immediately if they don't understand something.

WENDY MDINGI
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Wendy Mdingi grew up in Soweto and matriculated with three distinctions from Waverly High School. She is the first person in her family to be given the opportunity to study at university, all thanks to the financial support provided through the Carnegie scholarship. She was accepted to study Mechanical Engineering at Wits University.

Although Mdingi thought she was prepared, she struggled at first to adjust to university life. She felt that she had to become an adult immediately and learn how to be responsible. It helped to be staying in university residence because it allowed her the luxury of only having to concentrate on her studies.

However, she did have one major distraction: her favourite sport, football. Mdingi prioritised playing the beautiful game above studying to the point that her marks fell, and the Carnegie administrators warned her not to play until her results have improved. She is due to complete her degree in 2011, but will have to fund her final year herself.

Mdingi has returned to her school to talk to learners about studying, and informing them about applying for bursaries and scholarships.



Her message is: don't sit about complaining, being negative or run away from your problems. This will not bring the answers. Face up to your challenges, and make your dreams happen.



THOZAMA MEMEZA
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Thozama Memeza was the first one in her family to go to university after matriculating with exemption from Reasoma High School in Naledi Extension, Soweto. She was admitted to study for a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Memeza stayed at home in Soweto for her first year of study, and then moved into a student flat. She didn't enjoy the experience, though, because the accommodation was overcrowded. She eventually stayed in her own flat, which she preferred because she could study without disturbances.

She really needed this alone-time to concentrate on her studies after she failed her second year. Memeza came back strongly to graduate with credible results. Besides the satisfaction of obtaining her academic qualification, Memeza enjoyed the university experience because of the diversity of people she met.

Memeza now works at iGas, a South African gas development company, and has ambitions to become a Senior Engineer or a Project Manager in the future.

New students should be open to meeting people from different backgrounds and with different motives. This means university newbies need to be confident in themselves.



THULI MKHALIPHI
METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Thuli MkhaliPhi feels that coming from the small town of Piet Retief in Mpumalanga meant that she was not properly prepared for university. However, having matriculated from Ndelela High School with two distinctions and being accepted by Wits University to study Metallurgical Engineering, she had to face up to the challenge.

She stayed in the university residence but, in retrospect, she thinks it would have been better if she'd stayed at home. MkhaliPhi was unable to handle all the freedoms of university responsibly, and this, she says, is the main reason she did badly in her studies. She also struggled with the language barrier.

Her university career nearly came to an early and unfortunate end when she was excluded from Wits in her first year because of her poor academic performance. However, MkhaliPhi persevered, registering to study with UNISA the following year. She passed all her courses and was readmitted to Wits, where she is continuing with her studies.

MkhaliPhi has been back to speak to Grade 9 learners at her old school about the importance of education.

Her advice to new students is never miss lectures and consult with the lecturers if you are struggling with the course work. You should also choose friends who are as committed to success as you are.

KEABETSWE MOGODI
QUANTITY SURVEYING
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Keabetswe Mogodi matriculated with exemption from Ramotshere High in Dinokana Village, the North West Province, and was accepted to study Quantity Surveying at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Mogodi initially stayed in South Point Student Accommodation, which she shared with students from other institutions. In her final year, she stayed in a university residence to be closer to libraries and computer laboratories.

Mogodi's second and third years were particularly challenging when she had to study Economics and Accounting, neither of which she had taken at school level. Thus, she had to work twice as hard as other students, but her discipline and hard work paid off. She completed her degree in the minimum time with three distinctions. Mogodi now works as a Junior Quantity Surveyor for MLC Quantity Surveyors in Hyde Park, Johannesburg.

PULL quote She advises new students to stay in the university residence because it's the best way to learn about what's available at the university and students' lifestyle.

She regards getting the Carnegie Scholarship and her graduation ceremony as the most defining moments in her life. She would tell young people of today to stay strong and be focused at all times. They should always involve God in their plans because He will always answer their prayers. They should just keep dreaming.

ADELAIDE MOHLALA
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Like many Carnegie scholars, Adelaide Mohlala is the first person in her family to go to university. She matriculated from Glen Cowie Secondary School in Bushbuckridge, Limpopo, and initially hoped to do a degree in Medicine. However, she decided on Engineering, and was accepted by Wits University for her studies.

Mohlala felt overwhelmed in her first year as she was finding her feet in a new environment and learning to do things on her own. However, her easygoing demeanour and ability to relate to people made settling in a little easier.

She exercised great self-discipline and stayed true to her vision of completing her degree well. This was particularly important to her as her father had passed away, and she needed the degree so she could get a well-paying job and help support her family. She accomplished this, graduating in the minimum time.

Mohlala is currently employed as a Process Engineer at Murray & Roberts. A typical working day involves analysing drawings, doing on-site visits, and updating clients on the progress of their particular project. There are high expectations on her, which she finds challenging.

In the future, she would like to go into management or consulting.



Her advice to new students is: "Never give up!"



Her advice to new students is: “If at first you don’t succeed, try and try again.”

MAPHUTI MOKGOHLWA
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Maphuti Mokgohlwa decided to study Chemistry on the advice of a teacher at Glen Cowie Secondary School in Limpopo, from which she matriculated. She wasn’t intimidated when she was warned that Engineering is a “man’s world” – in fact, it motivated her even more to go out and prove herself.

She was accepted to study Chemical Engineering at the University of Pretoria. She initially stayed in the university residence, before going on to stay with family, and eventually moving into her own flat. It was living independently in her flat that truly taught her discipline and the value of accountability.

She started off her university career on a disappointing note, scoring just 38% in a drawing test. The challenge was not to let that failure consume her. She struggled at other times in her degree, performing badly in her second year, and required an additional year to complete her studies.

She now works at Honeywell Automation and Control Solution on the Graduate Trainee Programme. Mokgohlwa finds that working relationships can be tricky, but is learning through experience how to manage them. Now that she is an employed member of the Engineering Society, she is determined to make the most of her career in the industry.



Her advice to new students is to stay in residence if possible so they can enjoy the support of new friends.

THOVHEDZO MUNZHELELE
MINING ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Thovhedzo Munzhelele grew up in Thohoyando, Venda and matriculated from Todani Secondary School with five distinctions. Coming from the mining province of Limpopo, she wanted to qualify as a Mining Engineer. She was accepted to study this field at the University of the Witwatersrand.

She stayed at the university residence during her studies, which allowed her to make friends with home she could both socialise and study.

Like many students, Muzhelele experienced failure. She had studied well for a test but came out second best. The feelings of hurt threatened to engulf her, but she soon realised that she would have to put more heart into her studies.

She attributes her success to doing just that. She graduated with 17 distinctions in the minimum time and cites getting her first degree as a defining moment in her life.

She now works as a Rock Engineer for Anglo Platinum. Her job is challenging because it depends on uncontrollable variables, such as the weather. She would like to remain in this field and continue to develop as a Mining Engineer.

DESHINI NAIDOO (NOW PILLAY)
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Deshni Naidoo matriculated with six distinctions from Verulam High School in Chatsworth, Durban, but the merit award she received would not have been enough to cover her fees. With the financial support from her Carnegie scholarship, Naidoo was able to study Chemical Engineering at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

She chose to stay at home while she studied because she wanted family support and to continue to enjoy her mum's home-cooking. The comfort of familiar surroundings also helped Naidoo's adjustment from school to university, which she initially found difficult because of the huge workload she was faced with. But she conquered all her obstacles, and graduated with 28 distinctions.

She currently works as a Junior Process Engineer at SASOL Wax, where she is part of the technical team. Her duties include operational plant support, developing concept proposals and implementing plant modifications. Good writing and presentation skills are essential to her success in her vocation.

Naidoo married in 2009. In the future, she would like to establish her own consulting firm.

She has been back to her high school to talk to learners about the importance of education and the benefits of having a scholarship.



Her advice to new students is to choose a course that speaks to their abilities and their passions, but also to make sure that their choice ultimately leads to opportunities in the corporate world.

LINDIWE NGWENYA
CIVIL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG

Lindiwe Ngwenya grew up in Pimville, Soweto and matriculated from Mondeor High School with five distinctions. Having secured a Carnegie scholarship, Ngwenya chose to study Civil Engineering at the University of Johannesburg.

She stayed at home for all four years of her university studies and never felt as though she was missing out by not staying in residence.

What surprised Ngwenya was how many male students were in her classes. She started off one of a few females on the course, and ended up the only woman studying Civil Engineering. Although she found it strange at times, she was eager to succeed and graduated with 14 distinctions.

She currently works as a Junior Civil Engineer at Hatch in the Rail Division. One of the projects she has been involved in was upgrading Transnet's infrastructure. Ngwenya was part of a team that drew up a full Bill of Quantities and drafted the full costing of the upgrading exercise. She enjoys her job because she feels it helps to simplify people's lives. The most challenging thing about her work is the pressure not to make a mistake because of the high costs involved.

Ngwenya has ambitions to do an MBA and hopes to open her own business in the future.



Her message to would-be students is that university is a lot more intense than school, so will require greater effort on their part to succeed. They will have to attend class, spend sufficient time in the library, and form study groups.



Her message to would-be university students is to be prepared to meet a lot of different people from different cultures.

MONIQUE PARSONS
CIVIL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Monique Parsons grew up on the Cape Flats and matriculated from Heideveld High School with two distinctions. She was accepted by the University of Cape Town to study Civil Engineering, which had always been her dream. Her particular course was a five-year programme.

Initially she stayed at home with her grandmother, but moved into residence from her second year. Parsons found the transition from high school to university very difficult. She grew up in an Afrikaans-speaking community and at university she had to adjust to using English all the time.

Parsons had the strange experience of having members of her community regard her with suspicion, and not admiration, because of her success – a classic case of what happens when “one poppy grows taller than the rest of the field”, she says. But she wanted something different from life, and came to terms with being alienated by some in her community. She completed her degree in the five-year period with three distinctions.

Parsons currently works at HHO Africa Infrastructure Engineers as a Graduate Engineer. She started off in the Structural Designs Division but moved to the Roads Department shortly afterwards. She has no specific goals for the future, save to be the best she can be.



Her advice to new students is simple: never skip lectures. A clear focus on academics has to be maintained if a student is to succeed.

JUANITA PRINSLOO
ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Having matriculated from Capricorn High School in Limpopo, Juanita Prinsloo was accepted by the University of Pretoria to study Electronic Engineering.

She dedicated herself to two pursuits: firstly, to doing well in her degree, and secondly, to the worship of God. She had found solace in religion when her mother passed away while she was still at high school, and it helped her through the last years of her study as well.

Prinsloo has a strong sense of independence which helped her settle into life in residence, where she spent four years, and which proved to be equally invaluable when she later moved into her own flat. She enjoyed the residence experience and campus activities, saying it helped smooth over her integration into university life.

Prinsloo adds that the Carnegie scholarship also made the world of difference, freeing her from the stressful burden of financing her studies. As a result, she achieved distinctions in 18 subjects in her undergraduate degree.

Prinsloo is still studying part-time towards her Honours degree and would like to complete her Masters in the future. She currently works as a Software Developer for Rapid Mobile, where she is part of a team developing new tactical communication’s terminals for HF/VHF radios.

AVHEANI RABUMBULU
MINING ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Avheani Rabumbulu developed an interest in mining during her final year at Mbilwi Secondary School in Limpopo. She applied to the Carnegie Foundation and was awarded a scholarship to study Mining Engineering at the University of Pretoria

Rambululu found life in residence conducive to successful studying because the cooking, cleaning and washing-up was all taken care of. When she moved into a flat three years later, she found time-management much more difficult to get right.

Although achieving good marks was at the forefront of Rabumbulu's mind, she experienced failing as a student as well. Her situation wasn't helped by the tragic loss of her boyfriend in a car accident 10 months into their relationship, during her exams. It made her question everything, including what she was doing at university. But she overcame her grief and had the personal courage to successfully complete her Mining Engineering degree.

Rabumbulu is now employed as a trainee Mining Engineer at Exxaro in Limpopo. She is determined to give her future children a more financially secure background than she had, and so works hard at her job, which at the moment involves working underground for eight hours a day.



Rabumbulu encourages young South Africans who excel at Maths to consider Engineering as a career, but warns those who struggle with number-crunching not to attempt this degree.

SONIA RANTHO
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Sonia hails from the Limpopo Province and matriculated from Sealwana High School. She did fairly well in matric and registered for the extended programme in Electrical Engineering at WITS. She made good progress in her first 2 years, but found it a bit tough thereafter. She completed her degree with 4 distinctions.

Sonia applied for a range of bursaries when she was in matric, and already had two offers before the Carnegie Scholarship Programme came along. She opted for the Carnegie award as it did not come with employment obligations after graduation. The scholarship was also more generous than the other two and she did not have to worry about finances while she was studying. The freedom to explore many companies for employment was another big plus for her.

By the time Sonia got to university, her one sister was studying while her other sister just started working. Her mother was unemployed and they found it difficult to make ends meet. Her guardian had her sister's tuition fees to worry about. It was therefore a joyful relief to her family that she got the scholarship. It created hope in her family's lives that an engineer has been born out of her family and the community she grew up in.



Her advice to new students is to grab all opportunities to make a success of your life.

Seake's advice to first year students is to make good friends, but not get lost in socialising. After all, their priority must be to keep up-to-date with their university work.

BOITUMELO SEAKE
CIVIL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Boitumelo Seake was born in Meadowlands and grew up in Palm Springs in Gauteng. She matriculated with three distinctions from Evaton High School, and was accepted to study Civil Engineering at Wits University. Her brother and her sister were already at university at the time, also with funding from bursaries.

Seake stayed at home with her family, and doesn't regret this decision as many of her friends lived close by. She is something of a homebody, and lists being at home as being her first choice, even in her free time.

Seake suffered a setback when she changed from her original choice of degree to Quantity Surveying without notifying Carnegie, but soon realised that her action were unacceptable. She is back on track, though, currently in her final year of study for her undergraduate degree, and plans to do her Masters and a Doctorate.

Staying in residence is an experience and she advises new students to go for because it is the best way to make friends and to get to know the campus.

AMY STEVENS
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Amy Stevens excelled at Victoria Girls High School in Grahamstown in the Eastern Cape, where she matriculated with eight distinctions. After her hard work, she took a break and travelled to India, which was an eye-opener in terms of culture and poverty for her. Stevens found the people to be humble and industrious, and believes South Africans can learn from the Indian culture of hard work.

She was accepted at the University of Cape Town to study Electrical Engineering, and thanks to the Carnegie scholarship, was off to the Mother City. She stayed in the university residence for the first two years of her degree and in a flat for the last two years. In residence, she found life easy and enjoyed the social activities. When she moved into a flat, it was with friends, and it allowed her to learn and grow as an individual.

Her marks were excellent and she graduated with 11 distinctions. Her most difficult experience was working on her fourth-year mini-thesis but, after a difficult start, she completed it successfully. She became interested in nuclear power during this last year of study, and is convinced it is the solution to the country's energy problem.

Stevens is one of only two female engineers at Lesedi Nuclear Services, but doesn't experience this as a disadvantage. She enjoys cooking and hiking in her spare time.

WINNIE TLADI
MINING ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Winnie Tladi matriculated from Iketsetseng Comprehensive in the Free State with just one distinction, but her outstanding record of perseverance and effort helped earn her a Carnegie scholarship. She was accepted by the University of the Witwatersrand to study for a degree in Mining Engineering.

She initially stayed in a flat when she moved to Johannesburg, but moved into university residence in her second year, which she found to be more convenient than staying on her own. It was also much easier to join up with people in her course and form study groups.

Unfortunately Tladi failed both her second and her third year, and had to cope without Carnegie funding for one year of study. Although this was a tough experience, it was also a tipping point in her life. It helped her to see things with more clarity and to understand that she needed to put a whole lot more effort into her studies, and not be shy to consult lecturers if she was struggling to understand something.

Tladi graduated with two distinctions and now works at Rio Tinto as a Junior Engineer. She does not want to continue in the mining field for too long, and has ambitions to complete her Masters and to open her own franchise in the future.



Tladi warns new students to study very hard and not to be misguided into thinking there is time to play while at university.

ANZELLE VENTER (NOW KOTZE)
INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Anzelle Venter was born in Bloemfontein, went to Empangeni High School in Pietersburg and studied Industrial Engineering at the University of Pretoria.

Her most difficult experience was leaving her family and staying on her own during her studies. But Venter made the most of university life and advises young students to do the same - but not to lose sight of the reason they are at a university, which is to achieve in their studies.

She achieved excellent results, with distinctions in 37 modules. She credits her own hard work and Carnegie's financial support for her success.

Venter graduated and now works as an Industrial Engineer for Nissan South Africa. She started in the Supply Chain Division, where her biggest responsibility was supply chain design and the logistics for all production parts. She now works in the Production Control Division, where she oversees the ordering of parts, inventory management, process improvement and standardisation. It is an unusual job for a young woman to hold.

Venter's job allows her to develop and adopt new ideas that support real growth and development. She adds value to the industry by addressing fundamental shortcomings that are not always prioritised in an environment with an intense operational focus.

Her future plans include getting an MBA and moving into management. She has given herself 10 years to achieve these goals. For now, she is moving up professionally and enjoying married life, her new house and walking her dogs.



Anzelle assures new students that hard work delivers results.



Chantelle believes we can all contribute to make South Africa great.

CHANTELLE VERSTER
INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Chantelle Verster went to Middleburg Technical High School in Mpumalanga and enjoyed a lot of support from her parents when deciding on her area of study. They accompanied her to the University of Pretoria's open day, where she decided that this was the only institution for her.

Although the closest university to her home, it was still quite a distance from her parents' home, and Verster had to stay in residence. There she had to learn the delicate balancing act between studying and socialising. She says that staying in residence meant she was always in-the-know about the party calendar, but because she knew the reason she went to university was to perform well academically, she got the mix right.

Like all South Africans, Verster wanted to be able to say "I was there" when the FIFA World Cup came to our shores. And she can say that, but not because she attended a football match. She works as an Industrial Engineer for Virtual Consulting Engineers, the company involved in upgrading airports for the World Cup. The experience was both a challenging and thrilling one for Verster, who says that everyone had to be - quite literally - on the ball, to achieve what had to be done for South Africa to successfully host such a major event.

Verster would like to study further and complete a post-graduate degree. For now though, she wants to keep working at her job, and on her favourite hobby, cycling.



Health Sciences & Medicine

health

[health]

–noun

1. The general condition of the body or mind with reference to soundness and vigor: good health; poor health.
2. Soundness of body or mind; freedom from disease or ailment: to have one's health; to lose one's health.
3. A polite or complimentary wish for a person's health, happiness, etc., esp. as a toast: We drank a health to our guest of honor.
4. Vigor; vitality: economic health.

Origin:

bef. 1000; ME helthe, OE helth. See hale¹, whole, -th¹

–Related forms

healthward, adjective, adverb

sub-health, noun

–Can be confused:

health, heath.

—Synonyms

Vigor, vitality, strength, fitness, stamina.

Dictionary.com Unabridged

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med·i·cine

[med-uh-sin]

–noun

1. Any substance or substances used in treating disease or illness; medicament; remedy.
2. The art or science of restoring or preserving health or due physical condition, as by means of drugs, surgical operations or appliances, or manipulations: often divided into medicine proper, surgery, and obstetrics.
3. The art or science of treating disease with drugs or curative substances, as distinguished from surgery and obstetrics.
4. The medical profession.
5. (Among North American Indians) any object or practice regarded as having magical powers.

–verb (used with object)

6. To administer medicine to.

–idioms

7. Give someone a dose / taste / of his / her own medicine, to repay or punish a person for an injury by use of the offender's own methods.
8. Take one's medicine, to undergo or accept punishment, esp. deserved punishment: He took his medicine like a man.

Origin:

1175–1225; ME medicin < L medicīna (ars) healing (art), fem. of medicinus pertaining to a physician. See medical, -ine¹

Dictionary.com Unabridged

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ABIGAIL BAMBISA

MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Abigail Bambisa had already matriculated and spent four years working when she took a major step that would change the direction of her life. She decided she needed better matric results if she was going to reach the goals she had set herself, and rewrote matric at Bankuna High School, Limpopo. Achieving two distinctions, Bambisa was accepted by the University of Cape Town (UCT) to study Medicine.

Being away from home was difficult for her, as was the adjustment to a big city. She stayed in residence and struggled academically through her first year. However, Bambisa noticed that all of the medical students were going through the same thing, and that she was just going to have to weather the storm until she had found her university feet.

Gradually she got used to the demands of higher education and achieved better results. Bambisa is self-motivation personified, and is now in her final year of study in 2010. She intends to specialise in Psychiatry in the future.

Her suggestion to support new students – especially those far from home and from disadvantaged families – is that universities provide each one with a mentor. She thinks that students from disadvantaged schools are the ones who most require mentoring because, very often, they come from close-knit families and suffer severe stress when away from home.



Bambisa suggests that the mentors be involved to provide both academic and social support, to ease the transition from school to university.

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PRIYA BAWA

PHARMACY

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Priya Bawa studied for a Bachelor of Pharmacy at Wits University after matriculating with five distinctions from Riverside High School. She moved from Vereeniging to live with family in Johannesburg while she studied. Bawa says she had similar comforts and support to those enjoyed by students staying in residence, because her family made sure she also didn't have to take responsibility for cooking or cleaning the house.

To date she has had smooth sailing through her university career, although she had to deal with the personal crisis of her mother being diagnosed with cancer during that period. Academically, she only found things a little tough when she got to her Masters degree. While studying for her Masters, she also works as an Academic Pharmacist Intern at Wits Pharmacy Department.

Some of her academic career highlights have been being invited to deliver an academic paper in the United States in 2009. Her dissertation is currently being reviewed and she hopes to graduate in 2010. She would like to go on to do a Doctorate and work in the research and development field in the future.



When you have goals you can work towards opening the doors that will allow you to achieve your goals.



Striking the right work/life balance is essential, and de Beer says the main reason for her success at university was hard work mixed with the right amount of socialising.

ROOMENE DE BEER
SPEECH, LANGUAGE AND HEARING
STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

Roomene de Beer matriculated top of her class at Hoerskool Die Wilgers in Pretoria. Fortunately, Carnegie offered to finance de Beer's studies, for which she is most thankful.

De Beer went to Stellenbosch University in the Western Cape to study Speech Therapy. She initially stayed in private boarding, but felt unsafe and found it difficult to adjust to being so far from home. She later moved into university residence and was much happier with her new sense of security and belonging.

De Beer achieved 26 distinctions in the course of her degree, and attributes her success to having a strong support system.

She currently works as a Speech Therapist at Panorama Medi-Clinic in the Western Cape. A lack of resources at the hospital is de Beer's biggest work challenge, and she has a heavy patient load. To cope with this, she says she relies on her good communication skills, her abundant energy, and the ability to adapt.

De Beer would like to study her Masters and do research in the future. She also has ambitions to open her own practice in the next few years.

De Beer is passionate about the value of education and has been to several schools to encourage learners to study as a way of building for their future.

Deane advises first-time students to apply for funding. She found that her peers at university with no financial support could take very few courses at one time because they couldn't afford to do more. That meant it took them a lot longer to finish their degrees.

FRANCINAH DEANE
SPEECH AND HEARING THERAPY
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Born in Alexandra Township, Francinah Deane was schooled Matlaisane High School in the North West province. She returned to the city of her birth to study for a Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech and Hearing Therapy at Wits University.

Deane spent the first six months living with her father and found the experience kept her grounded. She then moved into university residence, which she enjoyed even more. The on-campus accommodation was convenient, and gave her easy access to the library and computers at all hours.

English was not Deane's first language and she initially struggled with the language barrier. One of the most important things she learnt was to ask for help when she needed it and to rely on the many support structures offered by the institution. She made full use of all these resources, but needed an extra year to complete her degree. Her persistence paid off: Deane was named the top student for the 2009 academic year.

She has subsequently returned to the North West and works as a Speech and Hearing Therapist at Vryburg Hospital. She has ambitions to complete her Masters and eventually to open her own practice.

ALLISON ELLMAN

MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Allison Ellman always knew she wanted to be a doctor and worked hard at her Oudtshoorn High School to matriculate with five distinctions. She decided to study Medicine at the University of Cape Town once she knew she had been awarded the Carnegie scholarship.

Her first year was the most difficult as she struggled to adjust to being away from home and without her parents. The course also presented its own challenges: Ellman found it particularly demanding caring for sick, HIV-positive children at the hospitals.

In her second year, Ellman had the very off-putting experience of being told by working health professionals that she's making a mistake getting into medicine. She was warned that she would earn very little for all the sacrifices she would have to make. But it didn't deter Ellman, who is now in her final year of study.

Her results have been excellent and she has so far achieved 10 distinctions. She describes every day as an inspiration because she is living her dream.

Ellman has great humanitarian ambitions and wants to work for Doctors without Borders before specialising and opening her own practice.



She advises young students to research careers fully before starting studies so that they make properly informed choices.

GILLIAN GASKIN

MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Gillian Gaskin matriculated from Parkhill High School in Durban with four distinctions, and broke new ground in her family by becoming the first to go to university.

Although she was initially unsure of what career direction to choose, she opted to study Medicine at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She stayed at home during her studies and commuted to class. She believes having her family around for support and enjoying home-cooking helped her do as well as she did.

Gaskin did not feel as though she was missing out on anything by not staying in residence, because she did not want to go to student parties. Gaskin says she "studied smart" and her hard work and close attention to detail in class helped her achieve 16 distinctions.

Her one regular break from her studies was attending church: Gaskin is a committed Christian and describes becoming a born-again Christian as the defining moment in her life.

Gaskin is currently doing her internship at Greys Hospital in Pietermaritzburg. She finds the job challenging on two fronts: there are limited resources at the facility and she often struggles to communicate with patients because they don't speak the same language as her. But Gaskin is passionate about her job and feels that her capacity for tolerance of others will help her continue to be successful.



Her advice to new students is to avoid indulging in weekly parties and concentrate on excelling in their academic work.

Her advice to new students is to be very aware of the importance of a work/life balance, since she knew many students who burnt out because they studied too hard. She advises all to develop their own, individual methods of study.

LIEZE GELDENHUYS
MEDICINE
STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

Lieze Geldenhuys wanted to be everything from an actress to a lawyer while growing up. She thought about becoming a medical doctor, but she was squeamish and thought she wouldn't be able to deal with blood. But she made her final choice in Grade 11 at Geloofte Skool in KwaZulu-Natal, and after matriculating with eight distinctions, embarked on her medical career.

She decided to study at Stellenbosch University as it is an Afrikaans university (which is her mother-tongue), and stayed in the university residence.

She says last year was the biggest learning curve in her career. She took the Christian Dedication Pledge, which combines the two most important things in her life: her religion and her work. She also went through the doctors' strike and experienced first-hand the chaos that ensues when such essential, skilled workers go on strike.

Geldenhuys is interested in a career in Radiology, but says that whether or not she specialises will depend on her future financial position. If she can afford to, her first choice would be to work in a community clinic as a way of giving back.



Sakeena believes that you can achieve anything if you put your mind to it.

SAKEENA HASSIM
MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Sakeena Hassim studied Medicine at the University of the Witwatersrand after matriculating from Taxila High School in Polokwane with four distinctions. She stayed in a self-catering residence on campus, which she really enjoyed. The nature of the accommodation also allowed her to help around the campus where it was needed, which she wouldn't have done if she had stayed in a flat.

Hassim found second year Anatomy the most challenging course in her degree, but graduated with excellent results, including eight distinctions. Her most rewarding moment was experiencing the wonders of new life when she delivered her first baby while still studying to become a doctor.

She is currently doing her internship at Mankweng Hospital in Limpopo, where one of her aims is to be the best doctor there. She finds the long hours and being on-call the biggest hurdles to cross, along with helping patients who cannot help themselves.

ZAINUB JOOMA

MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Zainub Jooma grew up in Middelburg, Mpumalanga and matriculated with six distinctions from Eastdene Combined School. Her outstanding achievement was all the more remarkable as her father passed away in her matric year. The strength of character she showed during this period was one of the qualities that persuaded the Carnegie Foundation to grant her a scholarship.

Her father influenced her choice of study – Medicine - and she moved away from her family home to stay with relatives in Benoni and study at the University of the Witwatersrand. The long drive from the eastern suburbs to Wits campus in the centre of the city was one of the challenges she faced.

Jooma missed her mother, whom she used to enjoy cooking with, and being away from home was her most difficult experience. But she pushed ahead with her studies and graduated with distinction in 2008. Besides her own hard work, she attributes her success to the family support she received.

Jooma is now completing her community service at Mankweng Hospital in Limpopo. The facility is under-resourced and she struggles to deal with incompetent administrators. She would like to have her own practice in 10 years time and believes that, to achieve this, she will need to be disciplined and push herself even beyond her own limits.

Her advice to new students is that they learn to grow up quickly, like she did. That involves handling one's own finances responsibly and learning to cope as an independent adult away from home.

LYDIA KILANI

MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Lydia Kilani matriculated from Randpark High School, Gauteng, with five distinctions. Having been granted a Carnegie scholarship and accepted by the University of Cape Town to study Medicine, she left for the Cape to start her new adult life.

It was always her dream to study Medicine and, by staying in residence, she got all the time she needed to do just that. Kilani did not have to worry about chores like cooking and cleaning and found life in residence very easy.

It also gave her new-found independence, something she was not used to since this was the first time she'd lived away from her family. But she had been raised in a strict home with many rules, and she found that the sense of boundaries and discipline she had learnt growing up benefited her in residence.

It was always in the back of her mind that she didn't want to disappoint either her sponsors or her family. With family support, Kilani overcame exam-time stress and graduated with four distinctions in 2009.

Kilani is completing her community service at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Hospital. She feels that, in her profession, she can't afford to have a bad day, which is sometimes unavoidable because of the shortage of human resources, infrastructure and security at her work place.



She advises new students to commit themselves to being the best they can be, and never to lose sight of what they are at university to achieve.



She motivates the youth by reminding them that their current situation and family background does not determine where they will end up – as she herself has proved.

BOITUMELO KOSI
MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Boitumelo Kosi was born in Johannesburg and moved to the Eastern Cape before going to live in Kayamandi, Stellenbosch when she was in Grade 9. She attended Kayamandi High School and matriculated top of her class.

She applied to the University of Cape Town (UCT) to study Medicine, but was doubtful that her marks were good enough. So it was a great surprise when she got the call to say she had been admitted. Her family had to borrow taxi fare from their neighbours so she could sign the offer – but she made it.

Her first few months were very difficult as she was exhausted from the daily commute from Stellenbosch to Cape Town. It was also a big academic adjustment and she didn't perform well in the first semester. Thanks to the intervention of the Carnegie-SA Office, she moved into residence in the second quarter, and has enjoyed staying there ever since.

Receiving the scholarship was a life-changing experience for Kosi. More than just herself, it gave her family hope for the future. Without it, she says would not have studied beyond matric and would have ended up in a dead-end life.

Kosi is now in her final year of Medicine, and is a role model to many in Kayamandi.



She warns new students to enter the university premises from their very first day with their priorities in order, because the first year in particular is filled with social activity.

KATLEGO MAGAELA
MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Katlego Magaela did not come from a particularly disadvantaged background - both her parents went to university and currently work as teachers. But when she matriculated from Eastdene Combined School in Mpumalanga, her parents were already paying for her two older siblings to study and couldn't afford to pay for her too. It was with great joy, therefore, that she learned that Carnegie would be financing her studies.

Magaela was accepted at the University of Pretoria (UP) to study Medicine, and she stayed in the university's residence for five years before moving into a flat in her final year. She thoroughly enjoyed her tertiary education experience, especially the lifestyle that goes with being a student. However, she can't wait to start her two-year internship and hopes one day to become a Surgeon.

Magaela is religious and attributes all her success to God. She also acknowledges the role played by her family and friends, and the freedom from financial pressures the Carnegie scholarship gave her.

Since receiving the scholarship, Magaela has made a point of making time in her busy schedule to tutor mathematics and science to learners from a local orphanage. This is part of a project called "Jerseys and Jeans" run by UP medical students. She says the orphans she teaches "have nothing but hope", and that's why she keeps going back.

PHILISIWE MAKHOBA
MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Philisiwe Makhoba grew up in the rural town of Nqutu in KwaZulu-Natal and had no access to electricity or running water. She used to wake up at 4am to fetch water to make tea for her elders before going to school.

Makhoba matriculated from Mathunjwa High School with three distinctions. She had no access to television, radio or newspapers, and regards it as a miracle that the Carnegie forms were delivered to her school at all. She applied, and when she heard that she had been granted the scholarship, she was so overjoyed that she cried for hours.

She was determined to turn her dire circumstances into success. Makhoba was accepted to study Medicine at the University of Cape Town (UCT). Makhoba had not used a computer before she got to university and was overwhelmed with the new technology facing her. UCT offered additional tutorials to help her get to grips with her studies and Makhoba benefitted enormously from them.

Although she was often overwhelmed by being in a big city, she remained focused and dedicated to her field of study. Makhoba graduated with three distinctions and currently works as an intern at Ladysmith Hospital in KwaZulu-Natal. She would like to be CEO of a medical company in the future or to specialise, although she is yet to decide in which field.



Her advice to new students is to make sure they work hard at school so they can get funding for further study and open doors that would otherwise have remained shut.

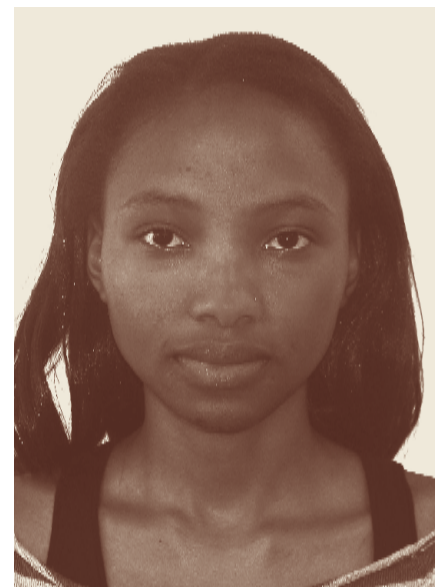
VUYOKAZI MAKONJWA
MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Vuyokazi was born in the township of Mdantsane in East London, the Eastern Cape and matriculated with an exemption from Solomon Mahlangu High School. She was always determined to study further after matric as she felt a sense of responsibility to help her mother support her family. No one in her family had studied beyond matric before, and she saw how her cousins who only had a matric found it difficult to get decent jobs.

She was accepted to study Medicine at the University of Cape Town and started off staying in residence. She found it convenient and enjoyed the sense of community, but disliked the food. She is now staying in a flat, but realises that it involves a lot more responsibilities and needs better time-management skills to cope.

Her most difficult experience at university was having to take a two-year leave of absence from her studies because she underperformed. She says the problem was she did not ask for help when she needed it most - she was too proud to ask as she saw it as a sign of weakness.

Although she is still struggling in some ways to regain her sense of worth after this setback, she has persevered and is now in her fourth year of study.



Her advice to school-leavers is to take a gap year because university life is on a whole new level. To succeed, you have to be independent, stable, self-disciplined and mature.



Her advice to young students who want to succeed at university is to work hard and stay focused.

ABONGILE MAKULUMA
MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Abongile Makuluma matriculated with five distinctions from Cambridge High School in East London, and with no tertiary institution in her home town, she had to go elsewhere for her studies. She had always wanted to become a doctor, and was accepted by the University of Cape Town to study Medicine.

She spent her first two years in the residence called Baxter Hall, before moving into the Medical Residence for the next two, and then into Forest Hill residence for her final two years.

Makuluma went through a difficult patch in her second year of study when she questioned why she was at university and whether she was doing the right course. She feels she could have done better at her studies - but still, Makuluma graduated with a C-average and two distinctions. She says that, although her marks disappointed her, she was just pleased to emerge from university with a degree.

She currently works as a General Medical Practitioner back in her hometown at the East London Hospital Complex. But she has a new dream she's working towards. It is to own a medical and wellness complex, which will offer the services of medical doctors alongside good-for-you luxuries such as pedicures, manicures, facials, fitness training and even a health restaurant. Her vision includes boutique shops as well - one of which will have her own line of clothing for sale.



The message she spreads is that young people in South Africa must believe in themselves and their abilities - that's the starting point for success.

FANELE MDLETSHE
MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Fanele Mdletshe sees being a doctor as a noble calling, which is one of the reasons she wanted to enter the medical profession. She was born and raised in Tongaat in KwaZulu-Natal, but went to Parkhill Secondary School in Durban. She earned two distinctions in matric, which was enough to get her into medical school at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

She stayed in residence, which she found quite lonely at first, but she made friends as time went on. She also got involved in student activities and was a member of the Student Representative Council, which helped her grow in confidence.

Mdletshe also produced academically, graduating with a C-average in the minimum number of years. She found clinical exams to be the most difficult, but whenever things got too tough, she thought of her family and the community where she was raised, which motivated her to work hard.

Mdletshe is the first of her family to attend university and completing her degree was a proud moment for all of them.

She completed her community service at Ladysmith Hospital and now works at Shongwe Hospital in Mpumalanga. The biggest challenges are the long hours she is required to work and the huge responsibilities she shoulders. She intends specialising in the next 10 years.

Mdletshe has been back to her old school to inspire the learners.

ZESCA MEYER
MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Zesca Meyer's father had a series of traumatic illnesses, the effects of which always threatened to derail her academic career. He had a heart attack, surgery and has since been diagnosed with cancer. His ill-health influenced her choice of study – Medicine. 2011 will be her final year and she has ambitions to specialise in Psychiatry, Gynaecology or Surgery.

Meyer grew up in George in the Western Cape and matriculated with two distinctions from York High School. She chose to study Medicine at the University of Cape Town because of her ailing father, and moved into the university residence. For a while, she moved into a more private flat, but then realised that she needed the convenience of catered accommodation and went back to residence.

Her father's illness forced her to take a leave of absence from her studies. She has since resumed and has achieved good marks, including three distinctions.

Meyer has struggled to balance her academic life with her family troubles, and her advice to new students is to try to achieve equilibrium.

She advocates doing a little bit of academic work every day to avoid having it pile up until it becomes an unconquerable mountain.

NOMTHANDAZO MNGADI
PHARMACY
UNIVERSITY OF WITWATERSRAND

Born and raised in Umlazi township, KwaZulu-Natal, Nomthandazo Mngadi matriculated from Sacred Heart Secondary School in Verulam. She was fortunate enough to have teachers well-informed about careers and study options, which is how she found out about what was to become her future field of study: Bachelor of Pharmacy.

But, as Mngadi discovered when she joined Wits University, there's a lot more to university life than just academics. Living in the university residence, she struggled with her relationship with her roommate's friends and a toxic romantic life of her own. It took personal courage, and the rock-solid support of her mother, for Mngadi to leave her then-boyfriend and begin to sort out her issues in her social life.

With that struggle behind her, Mngadi could focus more effectively on her studies. She has achieved five distinctions while studying for her degree and is now in her final year.

Mngadi has been back to Sacred Heart Secondary School to talk to the learners, and advises would-be students to stay in university residence because it provides a good study environment.



Students must learn to manage their own time, choose the right friends, and understand that, if they miss lectures, they will face the consequence of falling behind in their studies.



TUMISANG MOATSHE

MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Tumisang Moatshe grew up in Rankelenyane village in Rustenburg where English was not widely spoken. She found that language barrier to be the greatest challenge to her tertiary education.

Having matriculated from Zinniaville Secondary School with two distinctions, Moatshe was accepted by the University of Pretoria to study Medicine. Her career choice was made thanks to the influence of the family doctor, and a psychometric test that confirmed she belonged in the health sciences field.

She lived in university residence through her degree and, contrary to other people's experiences, found it pleasant in almost every respect. The continual presence of co-students meant that a support network was always available.

Moatshe is doing her internship at the Tshepong Hospital Complex in Klerksdorp and would like to specialise in Dermatology in the future.

She warns new students that living away from their family will be difficult and the adjustment could take some time. Her advice is to stay grounded.



PHENYO MOLOKO

MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE

Phenylo Moloko grew up in Mafikeng, North West Province, and matriculated from Mmbatho High School with three distinctions. She always knew she wanted to study Medicine and was accepted to do so at the University of the Free State.

Moloko moved to Bloemfontein and stayed off-campus in student accommodation. At first she found it lonely, because she didn't participate in residence activities. Over time, she began to value her independence and increasingly enjoyed her time at university.

She had to take supplementary exams for internal medicine in her final year, but finally graduated with 11 distinctions.

She is currently doing her internship at Dr George Mukhari Hospital in GaRankuwa, near Pretoria. She manages patients, does daily ward rounds, and works in both the clinic and the theatre. Her job requires her to have patience and empathy, as well as a good work ethic to deal with the long hours. Moloko would like to specialise and study further but has not decided which field she would like to go into.

Thanks to the financial assistance provided by Carnegie, Moloko was able to find employment and fund her younger sister's radio programming course.

SARAH MOORAD

MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Sarah Moorad was born and raised in Stanger, north of Durban, and went to Stanger High School. While still at school, she had many opportunities to develop the caring side of her nature. She looked after her younger sister and older brother because both her parents worked, and did volunteer work at Child Welfare and at the police station.

After matriculating with seven distinctions, she was accepted to study Medicine at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She stayed in digs off-campus because the university did not offer Halaal food to Muslim students. Being away from home was tough for her, but she found solace in her daily prayers.

She also faced a personal crisis of having to deal with the death of her young nephew, which forced her to think long and hard about life in its entirety. She realised that anyone could have their time cut short and that they owe it to themselves to make the most of every day they have.

She has certainly made the most of hers, graduating with two distinctions. Moorad says she was successful because of her commitment to working hard.

She is currently an intern at King Edward Hospital in Durban.



Her advice to would-be university students is to do intensive research into career and degree options before committing to any one direction, so that they are as sure as possible that their final choice of study is the right one for them.

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PHILISIWE MSOMI

PHYSIOTHERAPY

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Philisiwe Msomi was born in the rural village of Inchanga, KwaZulu-Natal, one of 12 children. She had to do her school work by candlelight and regarded tertiary education as beyond her reach. But she matriculated from Siphesihle High School with three distinctions, and was awarded a Carnegie Scholarship to study Physiotherapy at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

She had never used a computer before and never seen some of the apparatus she was expected to use. These educational adjustments were coupled with adjustments that came with being away from home for the first time. But she met the challenges with courage, and says she enjoyed her stay in residence.

She graduated with five distinctions, the first person in her family to obtain a university degree.

Msomi now works for the Department of Health and Social Service at Bushbuckridge Hospital in Mpumalanga as a Physiotherapist. The biggest challenge of her job is a lack of resources, which requires her constantly to find creative solutions to frustrating problems.

But Msomi does not consider herself to be successful yet. She has been bitten by the study-bug and would like to do a course in public management so that she can assist people who work in the lower levels of the hospital, whom she feels are exploited.



Msomi feels strongly that no one should be judged on whether or not they complete matric, because many simply can't access a quality education. Instead of passing judgement, people should give them the information and support they need to study further.

Her advice to new students is to make the decision to put their academic work before anything else, and manage their time correctly.

SANDILE MTHEMBU
PHYSIOTHERAPY
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Sandile Mthembu's hometown is Nqutu Township in KwaZulu-Natal. While she was still at high school, her father passed away from a chest condition. He was treated in a hospital, but not given the Physiotherapy that could have saved his life. So when Mthembu matriculated from Mthunjwa High School in Vryheid with two distinctions, she decided to go to the University of Cape Town to study Physiotherapy.

Mthembu stayed in residence, and found the move from home to university a difficult one. Her most difficult challenge was adjusting to using English as the medium of communication because it was not her first language. Her difficulties resulted in her needing an additional year to complete her studies.

She now works for the Life Health Care Company in Johannesburg as a Physiotherapist in the Rehabilitation Centre. One of the biggest challenges her profession faces is it doesn't get enough recognition, particularly in rural areas. Mthembu finds the industry dominated by white people in urban areas, and worries that this may make it difficult to establish herself.

In the future, Mthembu plans to study a Masters in Health. She would like to specialise as an Epidemiologist, and even do a Masters in Business Administration as she is interested in the commercial side of her profession.

Her advice to new students is to focus 70% of their time on studying and reserve the other 30% to enjoy their social lives. The sacrifice will be worth it.

RAHEEMA MUGJENKAR
DENTISTRY
UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE

While at Rylands High School in Cape Town, Raheema Mugjenkar wanted to study Optometry. Instead, she decided to do Dentistry at the University of the Western Cape so that she could stay at home and enjoy the support of her family while studying.

She says she believes the adjustment to university was easier because of this, and that being home also helped her achieve the balance between study and socialising which can be more difficult when staying in a residence.

Mugjenkar also attributes her success to continuous studying and, while she didn't slog every day, she made sure that she regularly revised old work and covered new work daily. Her final year saw a big jump in her workload and was the most stressful of her degree, but she graduated successfully with 17 distinctions.

She is currently working as a Dentist at the Area Military Health Unit in Kimberley. She enjoys her job but finds some of the procedures challenging, and that the posture she has to maintain to do her dentistry work puts strain on her neck, back and eyesight.

Mugjenkar is considering a postgraduate degree in Orthodontics, although she may go back to her first love and study Optometry.

LINDELANI MUTSHEKWANE
MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

After matriculating from Northcliff High School in Johannesburg with 6 distinctions, Lindelani Mutshekwané was awarded the Carnegie scholarship to study Medicine at the University of Cape Town.

For the first three years of her study she stayed in the Carinus Residence and enjoyed the academic support she received. In her final year she moved off campus to live in Salt River.

Although she performed well at university, she found the adjustment from high school quite tough. She had to make peace with the fact that her university results would never be quite as good as her school results had been. She graduated with eight distinctions.

Mutshekwané is still deciding the exact direction her future should take. While she is interested in specialising in an area of Medicine, she is also keen to branch out of Medicine and work in government or business.

Her advice to today's youth is that they should look passed their present situations and develop a life plan. It can be very short term, but write it down and reflect on it often. She advises new students to be well-balanced: work hard, have good friends and keep academics your top priority.

Her problem with most of the youth of today is that they don't see the future and can't see past their present situations. She would tell them it is good to have a life plan; it can be very short term, but it is very important to write it down and to look and reflect on the plan often.

LUNGILE MWELASE
MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Lungile Mwelase hails from Mpoqabulunga in KwaZulu-Natal and matriculated from Mandeni Secondary School. She was accepted by Wits University to study Medicine, where she lived in the university's residence.

Mwelase found exam times extremely stressful and she advises new students to make sure they study hard, well in advance of their exams, and to ensure that they also have some time to unwind. She had few problems attaining a work/life balance, and found that the funding she received through Carnegie helped enormously.

Mwelase achieved good results through her hard work, although she needed an additional year to complete her degree. She expects to do so this year.

What Mwelase would like to impart to the youth of the country is the motto she lives her life by: Don't be afraid to ask. Help will not be given unless it is asked for, and it's the reason she believes she did well at university.

Pertunia encourages students to apply for bursaries, to relieve the hardships of life while you are studying.

PERTUNIA NDOVE
MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Pertunia Ndove was raised in Maphophe village in Limpopo and matriculated from Basopa High School with two distinctions. She was accepted to study Medicine at Wits University.

For Ndove, one of the most beneficial consequences of being awarded a Carnegie scholarship is that she can stay in residence. It's the convenience of not having to worry about cooking and cleaning and being close to the place where classes take place that these students don't have. She notes that those who study without a scholarship or bursary often have additional burdens to cope with which compromise their academic success.

But it's still difficult moving so far away from home, and Ndove cherishes the little time she spends with her family when she returns to her village, particularly her grandparents.

Ndove is in her final year of study and would like to go back and work in Limpopo when she qualifies.

Nursing is considered one of the most stereotypically female careers and when Tshepiso Paliweni chose to study in that field, she found herself having to justify her choice on a daily basis. The bare truth was that she did not have enough points to study Medicine and thought that by working in a related field, she would get equal gratification.

Her advice to new students is to make sure they always prioritise their academic work.

TSHEPISO PALIWENI
NURSING
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Paliweni matriculated from Langlaagte High School in Vereeniging, Gauteng, with one distinction. She wanted to be in the medical field, and was accepted to study Nursing by the University of the Witwatersrand.

She stayed at home for the first three years of her studies and then moved into residence for the final two. Although she enjoyed her family's support at home, the environment was not always conducive to studying, and Paliweni's marks improved when she moved into residence.

She took advantage of all the resources available to her at the university, be they tutorials, consultations with lecturers and academic development programmes, and believes that this contributed to her success as a student. Paliweni graduated with 14 distinctions, top of her class.

She is currently doing her community service at Themba Hospital and is in the Obstetrics Unit, delivering babies and working with pregnant women. Her work is rewarding because the women she deals with are often in pain and are grateful for her assistance. However, Paliweni finds many people have negative attitudes to nurses, which she finds upsetting. The 12 hour shifts she works are also a challenge in her job.

Paliweni has enrolled to study in the Graduate Medical Programme to advance her Clinical Management skills. Her ultimate goal is to run a centre specialising in reproductive health, with equal care for both men and women.

MOTHEO PHALATSE
PHYSIOTHERAPY
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Phalatse hails from Randfontein, Gauteng and attended Carleton Jones High School. Engineering was her first choice of career, and she started her studies at the University of Cape Town. It was a rude awakening to university life for Phalatse. She says homesickness and difficulties balancing studying and a social life made her first year her “most difficult time”.

After performing so poorly in her first year, she didn’t expect Carnegie to continue with her scholarship. But they stuck by her, and so Phalatse started afresh, this time at the University of Pretoria studying her second choice: Physiotherapy.

Her new path had hurdles of its own. Her lectures were supposed to be presented in English, but sometimes lecturers would mix it with Afrikaans, a language she did not speak fluently. However, Phalatse soldiered on and completed her degree.

She began her working life at the Tshwane Rehabilitation Centre, where she developed a passion for working with patients with neurological conditions. She then moved on to Jubelee for a community-service period. She is currently employed at Steve Biko Academic Hospital treating patients with neck and back pain.

Her work requires supreme patience, particularly because the patients she deals with are often in severe pain. She has ambitions to do her Masters in Neurology before opening her own centre.



After experiencing firsthand the value of being given a second chance, Phalatse believes everyone should be entitled to another try. Her advice to new students is to learn from failure and to never give up.

ROSHNEY PHILIP
MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Born in India, Roshney Philip moved to Monsterlus in Limpopo at the age of six before resettling in Groblersdal, Mpumalanga. After graduating from Ben Viljoen High School, she moved from her home to study Medicine at the University of Pretoria, where she lived in residence for the duration of her studies.

It was a massive adjustment, especially for someone who had not spent much time away from her family. Besides a total change in living arrangements, Philip also found it challenging to adjust to the teaching styles of some of the lecturers, and their particular way of relating to their subject.

But Philip found the residence to be pleasant and secure, and saw the advantage of being grouped with her peers. It meant there were many opportunities to meet with fellow students and discuss assignments, research and other work in the evenings. She completed her degree in 2010.

Some may describe her university career as uneventful, but the administrators at the Carnegie office say that she was simply one of the students who got on with what needed to be done. She is incredibly determined, studious and diligent, and has ambitions to complete her Doctorate and teach.



Philip believes success starts in school. She advises young people to invest time in their matric - not just by being bookworms, but by getting to know themselves and unearthing what it is they want to do in life. She is absolutely sure of one thing: good results will get them there.

Her advice to new students is not to lose the momentum they gathered while at school and to remember the reason they chose to go to university.

EILEEN RAJARAM

MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Eileen Rajaram was born in Durban in KwaZulu-Natal. She went to Dr AD Lazarus Secondary School, where she matriculated with seven distinctions. She always knew that she wanted to study Medicine and applied for the Carnegie Scholarship. She chose to study at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

She stayed at home while studying, but says this had its own demands since, as she got older, she was tasked with more responsibilities in the family. At first, she found it difficult to manage both the academic pressures and these personal responsibilities.

Rajaram says she succeeded because she stayed focused, identified difficulties in the course, and sought help early. She had a structured plan which included setting small goals and trying to get in some academic work every week. She graduated with seven distinctions.

She is currently doing her internship at Addington Hospital in Durban. Rajaram has discovered that there are no ordinary days in Medicine. Work is unpredictable and there is always something new to learn. She says the biggest challenge is that the hospital is short-staffed and she has to work overwhelmingly long hours - but she still finds her work rewarding.



BONGSI RUBUSHE

MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Bongsi Rubushe's love for biology began while at Tsholomnqa High School in Port Elizabeth. Matriculating with two distinctions, she applied to study Medicine and was accepted by Wits University. Her family couldn't afford to pay for her studies, so when Rubushe received the Carnegie application form for a scholarship from her school principal, she was full of hope.

Rubushe was awarded the Carnegie scholarship and moved to Johannesburg. She stayed in residence, which she says was an "amazing" experience. It was also convenient as she had ready access to her friends and the library, and didn't have to worry with daily responsibilities such as preparing food. She says she knows how to balance work with relaxation and enjoys playing netball in her spare time.

Rubushe repeated her third year after failing one module, but will complete her degree in 2010, and proudly says she has already accomplished all the goals she set for herself.

When she's back in her home town, Rubushe visits her old school, Tsholomnqa High, to motivate matric learners to excel so they too can obtain funding for further study.

Her advice to learners when they become new students is to interact with as many people as they can – it's an important way of learning about oneself and about life.

GAIRIYAH SAMSODIEN
SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Gairiyah Samsodien got all the information she needed about the field of Speech and Language Therapy while at Harold Cressy High School in Cape Town, from which she matriculated with four distinctions. She knew it was the area she wanted to study, but a visit to the University of Cape Town's open day confirmed her choice.

She decided to stay at home during her studies instead of in residence. This had both positive and negative sides because, while she benefited from family support, she felt as though she was missing out on some campus activities. Like most students, the adjustment to university was initially difficult for Samsodien. However, she proved to be an excellent student and achieved 16 distinctions in her degree.

Samsodien did not get a job immediately after graduation and spent a year away from home looking for one. She now works as a teacher at a sister-branch of Darum Institute, a tertiary institution for Islamic studies, where she teaches Language and Religion to women. She says her job is challenging because it is difficult for her students to remain focused on their studies since there are many social problems that impact on their lives. She would like to continue working in the education sector in the future.

She advises new students to prepare themselves for long hours of study and to have their goals at the forefront of their minds, while also making the most of their university experience.

DORET SCHOLTZ (NOW MURRAY)
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE

Doret Scholtz matriculated from Westvalia High School in Klerksdorp, the North West, with six distinctions. One of her teachers applied for the Carnegie Scholarship on her behalf, which saved her from needing a study loan. She decided to study Occupation Therapy after taking an aptitude test, and was accepted to do so by the University of the Free State.

Scholtz stayed in residence for the first three years, after which she lived with friends in a flat. She enjoyed both experiences, but preferred the flat because it gave her more freedom.

She says she experienced few difficulties while studying and developed the capacity to deal with the increasing workload of her course. She attributes her success to attending almost all of her classes and planning well. Scholtz graduated with 25 distinctions.

Scholtz now lives in Cape Town with her husband, where she is a locum at three different mental institutions. She is deeply religious, and has chosen this career path because it gives her flexibility and the freedom to concentrate on her ministry work.

She wants to use her skills as an Occupational Therapist to serve the community and, although future study is not part of her immediate plan, she would consider doing a more in-depth counselling course, or specialising in Play Therapy and Sensory Integration.



Her advice to new students is to enjoy their time at university, surround themselves with positive people, and live a balanced life.

She is currently doing her internship at Mankweng Hospital in Polokwane, Limpopo. In future, she would also like to go into business and offer a scholarship in her name.

SIMPHIWE TWALA
MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Simphiwe Twala's grew up in Dennilton on the border of Limpopo and Mpumalanga. She matriculated from Hoërskool Ben Viljoen with six distinctions. She wanted to study away from home to learn to be independent, and was accepted by the University of Cape Town (UCT) to study Medicine, where she stayed in residence.

Being from a small town, Twala says she had thought that being wealthy meant owning two taxis and a tuck shop, but she discovered whole new levels of affluence among her peers. She didn't let this make her feel inferior, though, and worked hard to earn recognition.

She found her first year very frustrating. Much of the work went over similar ground to that which she had already covered at school, and she was psyched-up, ready to get down to the serious business of studying to become a doctor. She also had to cope with the loss of an aunt to whom she had been very close.

Twala's second tough patch at university hit her in her third year. It was a combination of the heavy work load and suffering her first broken heart. But Twala's dedication paid off and she completed her degree in the minimum time, with five distinctions. When she graduated, it was one of the happiest days of her mother's life, who is a nurse.

Ulana's advice to new students is to understand that tertiary education is challenging and tough, and they must learn to adapt quickly. They should understand that their studies come first, and they shouldn't delude themselves that they are smarter than everyone else.

VUYOKAZI ULANA
MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

With her heart set on becoming a doctor, Vuyokazi Ulana matriculated from St Matthews High School in King Williams Town, the Eastern Cape, with one distinction. She was accepted to study Medicine by Wits University.

She first moved into residence at the Johannesburg College of Education and, in her fourth year, moved closer to the medical campus. Ulana battled to fit in and, even though she enjoys mixing with different people, found the move to university extremely challenging.

Ulana had a tough time academically too. She failed two years of her medical degree and lost her scholarship twice. However, she has persevered and is on track to graduate at the end of 2011.

Her family are anxiously waiting for her to qualify because she is one of the primary financial contributors to the household. Losing the scholarship put pressure on her as she had to worry about the well-being of her siblings and mother. She has sold sweets and chocolates to make money for her family since the age of five, and now owns a small tuck shop, close to the university, that she opens on certain days for additional income.

NADIA VAN STADEN
MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE

Nadia van Staden always knew she wanted to be a doctor and started putting in the effort to make sure she could in high school. She matriculated from Queenstown Girls High School in the Eastern Cape with seven distinctions and was accepted by the University of the Free State to study Medicine.

Van Staden stayed in residence for two years before moving into a student house for the remainder of her studies. Moving from her small hometown to a comparatively big city was a difficult adjustment for her. She was faced with many things she hadn't been exposed to before, including drugs and alcohol. But she acclimatised to her new situation, graduating successfully with 32 distinctions.

Currently, she is doing her community service at Greys Hospital in Pietermaritzburg. She finds the most challenging things about her job to be the long hours, dealing with the risk of contracting infection, especially tuberculosis, and emotionally detaching herself from her patients. It's the last of these that van Staden battles with most, particularly with children. However, her love for children will probably see her specialising in Paediatrics.

Van Staden has started an outreach programme for youth in Pietermaritzburg.



She advises new students is to be wary of peer pressure, and to understand that it's ok to say "No!" to participating in things they are uncomfortable with. She also warns them to expect to have to make a workload leap.

SIYASANGA YEKANI
MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Siyasanga Yekani was born in Umtata in the Eastern Cape and then moved to Kokstad where she matriculated with an exemption from Kokstad College. She was accepted by the University of Cape Town to study Medicine, and has stayed in residence since her first year. She considers being awarded the Carnegie scholarship as the moment that has defined her life so far.

But Yekani feels she was not adequately prepared for university, and failed her first year of studies. She then failed one course in her repeat year, and had to carry a course through to her next year of study. She only truly became a second year student after three years at the university. She is currently in her fourth year and is confident that she will do better and better. Despite these setbacks, Carnegie has continued to fund her degree.

Although not one of the top students academically, Yekani believes she is a fighter. In a few years time, Yekani would like to be practicing medicine in Port Elizabeth, working with her sister who is a pharmacist.

Yengeni wrote a letter to her brother when he started his university career.



She advised him to lead a balanced life at university and impressed upon him that it was not just be about getting a degree. He should use his time at a tertiary institution as the opportunity to grow up. She advises all students starting out at university to do the same.

NOMTHANDAZO ZWANE

MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Nomthandazo Zwane knew she wanted to be a doctor ever since she was a child. After matriculating with an exemption from Hlomane High School in Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga, she was accepted by Wits University on a Carnegie bursary to study Medicine, where she joined her older sister who was already a Wits student.

She stayed in a self-catering residence, which she enjoyed because she was able to take care of herself. She enjoyed cooking the most, and says buying the ingredients helped her learn about budgeting. This diligence carried over into her studies and she made sure she never allowed work to pile up. She was always careful to prepare well before exams and not to overindulge in the freedoms of residence life too much. Zwane says her most satisfying experience as a student so far was getting the highest mark in her class in the most challenging subject in the degree: Internal Medicine.

Zwane's most difficult experience was - like for so many students - failing for the first time. She used the experience as a motivation to push herself even harder, and says she took solace in God and prayer which helped her become more successful. Zwane is now in her final year of study.

Her advice to those who would like to go to university is to ensure they apply on time to secure a place and worry about financing their studies later. Once at university, they must take care to handle their new freedoms responsibly.



Information Systems & Computer Science

in·for·ma·tion

[in-fer-mey-shuhn]

–noun

1. Knowledge communicated or received concerning a particular fact or circumstance; news: information concerning a crime.
2. Knowledge gained through study, communication, research, instruction, etc.; factual data: His wealth of general information is amazing.
3. The act or fact of informing.
4. An office, station, service, or employee whose function is to provide information to the public: The ticket seller said to ask information for a timetable.
5. Computers .
 - a. important or useful facts obtained as output from a computer by means of processing input data with a program: Using the input data, we have come up with some significant new information.
 - b. data at any stage of processing (input, output, storage, transmission, etc.).

Origin:

1350–1400; ME: instruction, teaching, a forming of the mind < ML, L: idea, conception. See inform₁, -ation

–Related forms

in·for·ma·tion·al, *adjective*

non-in·for·ma·tion·al, *adjective*

com·put·er

[kuhm-pyoo-ter]

–noun

1. Also called processor. an electronic device designed to accept data, perform prescribed mathematical and logical operations at high speed, and display the results of these operations. Compare analog computer, digital computer.
2. a person who computes; computist.

Origin:

1640–50; compute + -er₁; cf. MF computeur

–Related forms

com·put·er·like, *adjective*

non·com·put·er, *adjective*

–Related words

Computing device, computing machine, data processor, electronic computer, information processing system

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SHABNAM OSMAN
COMPUTER SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Shabnam Osman matriculated from Rylands High School in Athlone, Cape Town with five distinctions. Her sole desire after finishing school was to study Computer Studies at the University of Cape Town (UCT), and that is exactly what she did.

Her home was close enough to UCT for it to be convenient for her to stay there while studying. Being a Muslim, Osman also thought her special dietary requirements would cause complications for her in residence.

Her challenges came later in her studies, particularly in third year and at Honours level, when she had a lot of subjects needing her constant attention. The workload was high, but she and her peers dealt with it by forming study groups. The “smart-work” paid off and she graduated with 10 distinctions.

Osman is currently a Software Developer at Metropolitan Health. Her main role is to help develop computer programmes that hospitals can use to send medical aid claims to Metropolitan. She enjoys her job because there is a lot of room for development, growth and promotion in the company.

Her advice to new students is to “study smart”, rather than just studying hard. She thinks this can be achieved only if they enjoy what they are studying.



Osman’s most important pearl of wisdom for new students is that they need to plan carefully how they will prepare for, and approach, exams.

PRISCILLA HO
COMPUTER SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Priscilla Ho matriculated from Springs High School, Gauteng, and initially had thoughts of studying Gynaecology or for a Bachelor of Commerce degree. However, she opted for a Bachelor of Science degree, which she studied for at Wits University.

Ho stayed with her parents and they supported her education by taking care of her needs so she could make full use of her time to study. She readily admits that she did not go out much, making her primary focus to do well in her degree.

Although a hard worker, Ho was not able to complete her degree in the minimum time. One particular setback for her was a car crash she was involved in with her brother. But she did eventually come through with seven distinctions in her Bachelor of Science in Computer Science degree, before going on to obtain three distinctions in her Bachelor of Science Honours degree in Applied Mathematics.

She is currently employed at KPMG as a Senior Analyst. Conflict management is an important skill in her job, she says, and she has learnt that the tried-and-tested adage, “The customer is always right” is, indeed, true. As a result, Ho always puts the needs of her clients first.



Ho has ambitions to further her studies by doing a Masters of Business Administration degree in the future, and would also like to move into management at KPMG.

Her advice to new students is to find supportive friends and cut oneself some slack. She recommends adopting her own life motto: it's ok not to get everything right the first time.

RAFIEQAH ISAACS
INFORMATION SYSTEMS
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Rafieqah Isaacs matriculated from Alexander Sinton High School in Cape Town with two distinctions. After attending a few open days at the University of Cape Town (UCT), she set her sights on studying for a degree in Information Systems at that university.

Isaacs decided to stay at home during her studies since it was convenient, and her Muslim dietary requirements were deliciously catered for.

To begin with, attending UCT gave Isaacs quite a culture shock. It was totally different to the world she'd been accustomed to growing up in her community. But third year proved to be the most difficult. Her workload intensified incredibly, she had no free time for herself - not even during the holidays - and she nearly gave up on her studies many times.

But her gritty determination paid off, and she completed both her undergraduate and Honours degrees in minimum time, the latter with distinction.

Currently, Isaacs works as a Business Analyst for Business Systems Group (BSG) Africa. The job is challenging, but she is using it as an opportunity to learn. Unlike many young professionals who want a fast-track to the top, Isaacs is mindful of her place on the corporate ladder and does not hesitate to ask for help.



FAITH NKANYANI
COMPUTER SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Faith Nkanyani matriculated from Msengeni High School in Limpopo with two distinctions, and was accepted by the University of Cape Town to study Computer Science.

Nkanyani moved into the university residence for the first two years of her studies. She struggled during her second year because most of the friends she had made in her first year didn't make it into second year. She also didn't enjoy sharing a room and moved into a self-catering residence in her third year. That gave her the opportunity to mingle with people from different backgrounds and cultures.

She found her course challenging and didn't always get enough sleep, which sometimes resulted in her falling asleep during laboratory sessions. However, she pulled through and graduated with four distinctions.

Nkanyani currently works as a Java Developer at Sanlam's Head Office in Belville, the Western Cape. She is involved in ensuring online banking transactions, purchases and flight bookings are secure. Her job requires her to think on her feet and be well versed in Java language. Her handsome salary has enabled her to buy her first car - brand new - which she describes as the highlight of her life so far.

Nkanyani is currently studying business part-time so that she can own and manage a company in the future.

She advises new students not to rush into a field of study, but to carefully research all the possible study and career options before making their choice.

NOZIZWE HABEDI
INFORMATICS
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Nozizwe Habedi was born in Swaziland but schooled in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga. She attended Lowveld High School and matriculated with two distinctions. She was granted a Carnegie scholarship and accepted by the University of Pretoria to study Informatics.

She lived in the university residence, and being away from home made her realise that she had to be her own time and financial manager. She found the increasing workload through her years of study a challenge, and required an extra year to graduate. When she did, it was with five distinctions.

She currently works as an Analyst Developer at First National Bank's Shared Services Division. Her job is to design IT solutions for business requirements. She takes these projects right from the planning and implementation phase, through to training the users, and then supporting and maintaining the system. She enjoys her work because IT is a vital aspect of most business, so she has a constant stream of new systems to create. She says anyone in her field can't be afraid of change.

Habedi was recently promoted and says that recognition for her effort is a big motivator for her. She would like to do a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration in the next two years as a way of preparing for an Masters of Business Administration, and eventually to run her own business.

The principle of Lowveld High School asked her to come back and give an inspirational speech to the learners, which she will be doing in 2011.

JO-MARIE SCHOEMAN
INFORMATION SYSTEMS MULTIMEDIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Jo-Marie Schoeman was always a top performer at Waterkloof High College in Pretoria, and matriculated with 10 distinctions. She decided to study for a degree in Multimedia at the University of Pretoria.

Even though her home was in Pretoria, she stayed in residence and she loved it. Schoeman mixed work and play with ease, and says the secret to her success was taking a break between bouts of hard work. She was a firm believer in not working in the holidays. She completed her degree, having achieved a distinction in 56 out of a total of 57 exams she wrote in the course of her studies.

Education is a real passion of Schoeman's and she helps in its development at her place of employ. She works as a Project Manager at Trydean Interactive, where she does programme development on e-learning applications designed to use multimedia to improve the learning process. She has also been involved in successfully developing a tool to help teach South Africans literacy skills in their mother-tongue.

Her job requires her to be multi-skilled, both with computers, where she is always learning new codes, and with people, where handling conflict is an essential ability. She would like to do a Masters of Business Administration and move into management - as well as to open a coffee shop one day.



She advises new students to find friends at university with similar interests to make the studying experience an unforgettable one.

Finance, Economics & Mathematics

fi·nance

[fi-nans, fahy-nans]

–noun

1. The management of revenues; the conduct or transaction of money matters generally, esp. those affecting the public, as in the fields of banking and investment.
2. Finances, the monetary resources, as of a government, company, organization, or individual; revenue.

–verb (used with object)

3. To supply with money or capital; obtain money or credit for.

–verb (used without object)

4. To raise money or capital needed for financial operations.

Origin:

1350–1400; ME *finaunce* < AF, MF *finance*, equiv. to *fin* (er) to end, settle, pay (see *fine*2) + *-ance* *-ance*

–Related forms

fi·nance·a·ble, *adjective*

pre·fi·nance, *verb* (used with object), *-nanced*, *-nanc·ing*.

self·fi·nance, *verb* (used with object), *-nanced*, *-nanc·ing*.

su·per·fi·nance, *noun, verb*, *-nanced*, *-nanc·ing*.

un·der·fi·nance, *verb* (used with object), *-nanced*, *-nanc·ing*.

un·fi·nanced, *adjective*

well·fi·nanced, *adjective*

ec·o·nom·ics

[ek-uh-nom-iks]

–noun

1. (Used with a singular verb) the science that deals with the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services, or the material welfare of humankind.
2. (Used with a plural verb) financial considerations; economically significant aspects: What are the economics of such a project?

Origin:

1785–95; see *economic*, *-ics*

math·e·mat·ics

[math-uh-mat-iks]

–noun

1. (Used with a singular verb) the systematic treatment of magnitude, relationships between figures and forms, and relations between quantities expressed symbolically.
2. (Used with a singular or plural verb) mathematical procedures, operations, or properties.

Origin:

1350–1400; ME *mathematic* < L *mathēmatica* (ars) < Gk *mathēmatik* (technē) scientific (craft), equiv. to *mathēmat-* (s. of *máthēma*) science, knowledge + *-ikē*, fem. of *-ikos* *-ic*; see *-ics*

SANISHA PACKIRISAMY
BUSINESS SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Sanisha Packirisamy studied Business Studies at the University of Cape Town, after matriculating from the Collegiate High School in Port Elizabeth with six distinctions.

She moved into residence for the first two years of her studies and then into a flat, and describes both as enjoyable experiences. But she also struggled through some trying personal experiences. Packirisamy lost two members of her family in two years, and had to take on the responsibility of looking after her mother as well. Still, she graduated with 13 distinctions, and dedicated her degree to her late sister, who died of cancer and who had also been studying Business Science.

Packirisamy was then offered a dream job at Rand Merchant Bank (RMB). This financial institution doesn't normally recruit employees who don't have prior work experience, and Packirisamy recognises her appointment as a massive opportunity. She currently works in Asset Management in the Pension Fund Investment area and has already been tasked with big jobs. She feels that working at RMB has set her on a steep learning curve and plans to continue working there over the next decade, hoping to move into a strategic role with even more responsibility. She is also registered to become a Chartered Financial Analyst.



Her advice to new students is to accept that university will be more stressful than school, and try to establish a balance between recreation and hard work.

CELESTE BEEZ
FINANCIAL MATHEMATICS
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Having matriculated with five distinctions from Carlton van Heerden Secondary School in the small town of Upington in the Northern Cape, Celeste Beez made the move to a big city to study Financial Mathematics at the University of Pretoria.

Going to university presented with Beez with many challenges. Coming from such a small town, she was initially overwhelmed by the bright lights and bustle of Pretoria. She also found it unsettling to stay in a residence and having to do everything for herself. But the transition from school to university was made easier because Beez made a conscious effort to engage with students from all kinds of backgrounds and cultures.

She took the academic challenges in her stride and graduated successfully with eight distinctions.

She is now working for FirstRand Bank as a Credit Analyst. Her main responsibilities involve checking credit risk and saving capital for the bank. Having achieved her goal of passing well, Beez feels that this challenging yet stimulating field of work is her just reward.

She wants to continue working with money and sees herself moving to a senior position in the next 10 years. Beez also has ambitions to open her own business, and has already started scouting around for investment opportunities. She feels that the analytical, independent thinking skills she uses now will give her a solid platform to reach these goals in the future.



She advises new students to build a network of people to support them through their studies.



She advises new students to get funding where possible, because those who get loans instead of scholarships have to start out their working lives with debt concerns

EMILENE BEUKES
FINANCIAL MATHEMATICS
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Recognised as a dedicated and talented student at Tom-Naude Technical School in Limpopo, Emilene Beukes brought those same qualities to her studies in Financial Mathematics at the University of Pretoria.

She stayed in her own flat throughout her studies and, although she had all the space she needed, it took her a while to achieve the right levels of responsibility and discipline needed to handle so much freedom. She proved to be a very competent student, and successfully completed her degree.

Beukes enjoys her job at Investec, where she works on UK banking. It's not what she studied for, and involves meticulous attention to detail with little room for error. She hopes to move into statistics as her career advances.

Although she hasn't been working there for long, Beukes has already received two promotions. While this is fantastic recognition for her hard work and abilities, Beukes says she makes sure she plays hard too. She enjoys belly dancing, playing darts, and going to the movies in her free time. She also regularly visits her parents in Limpopo.



Buntting believes that university can make or break an individual, and her advice to new students is to make sure they succeed in to remain focused.

ROXANNE BUNTTING
ACCOUNTING
UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG

Roxanne Buntting matriculated from Florida Park High School, Gauteng with four distinctions. Having been awarded a Carnegie scholarship, she decided to study at the University of Johannesburg because she felt they had the best Accounting Department. She could also stay at home, and rely on the support of her parents and older sister if things got stressful.

She made few friends, but the ones she did make are a wonderful addition to her life. Her family were a big source of support to her and she was disciplined about sticking to her goals. Buntting didn't have many difficult experiences at university, save for an incident when a good friend of hers was involved in a serious car accident. It made her open her eyes more to the people around her and she started appreciating their role in her life. Buntting did well, graduating with 19 distinctions.

Buntting currently works as a Trainee Accountant with PriceWaterhouseCoopers. The most challenging part of her job is dealing with difficult clients, as many people in the workplace dread their interaction with auditors. She meets many different people in her field and enjoys the experiences of working with different clients and different personalities.

She has ambitions to get married and have children in the next decade, while continuing to advance her career.

SONGO DIDIZA
ECONOMIC SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Songo Didiza developed a passion for Accounting while still at Winterberg High School, but her teachers influenced her to study Economics instead. So she made the move from Hilltown in the Eastern Cape to Johannesburg to study Economic Sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand.

She stayed in residence and enjoyed the experience of meeting people from different cultures. However, Didiza found some of the social challenges difficult, and struggled to get her priorities right at first.

Didiza observed that students who didn't have a scholarship or a bursary often worked harder than those who did, because they were motivated by the idea of getting good enough results to secure financial help. She surrounded herself with positive people like these, and succeeded in obtaining her degree.

Her thorough knowledge of her field helped her secure a job at the IQ Business Group as a Process Consultant. The most challenging things about her job are having to think on her feet and learn very fast.

She sees her current work as building the foundation for what she'd really like to do, which is to start her own business in the future.



Didiza has three pieces of advice for those coming to university for the first time: be passionate about your field of study, be eager to learn, and enjoy student life.

ULANDI FRASER
BUSINESS SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Ulandi Fraser matriculated with distinction from Malibu High School, Cape Town, and one of her teachers encouraged her to apply for the Carnegie scholarship. Having been awarded one, she was accepted to study for a Bachelor of Business Science at the University of Cape Town.

She stayed in residence, which she says was one of the most fulfilling experiences of her life because it taught her independence. However, Fraser soon realised she was a small fish in a big university-pond when she failed for the first time. She needed an extra year to complete her degree, but eventually graduated with one distinction.

She chose not to enter the job market immediately, despite criticism, and spent a year teaching English in South Korea. She has since returned to South Africa and is looking for a job in the field in which she studied. Her passion for Finance has not dimmed and Fraser would like to work as a Trader, an Analyst, or an Asset Manager, while studying towards becoming qualified as a Chartered Financial Analyst.

Fraser is also open to the possibility of doing a Masters of Business Administration, and has ambitions to be the chief executive of her own company one day.



Fraser advises new students to find a healthy work/life balance, and to understand that university is not just about academics – it's also about growing as a person and learning new things about all aspects of life.

She advises new students to understand that university brings with it many new freedoms, and they must guard against indulging in them irresponsibly.

TREESHA GOVENDER

ACCOUNTING

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Treesha Govender's matriculated from Tongaat High School with six distinctions. Her family wanted her to study, because they valued education but weren't sure how they could afford it. No wonder that they were all overjoyed when she was awarded a Carnegie scholarship to study for a Bachelor of Commerce degree in Accounting at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

She stayed at home during her studies, but there were many other students in her neighbourhood, which meant that she didn't feel as though she was missing out on residence life. Govender put aside her social life so she could focus on her studies. It paid off, and she graduated with 14 distinctions and completed her Honours with distinction.

Govender is currently doing her articles with PriceWaterhouseCoopers, and is on a two-year assignment in Boston in the USA. Her job requires her to put on a smile and be nice to people whom she sometimes doesn't feel very tolerant towards.

She would like to do her Masters and lecture in the next 10 years. Govender has already done a stint in part-time lecturing at her former university, and received positive feedback about her skills.



She has ambitions to become a Credit Manager, and would also like to further her studies and complete a Masters degree.

MMATAU MAKOLA

ECONOMICS

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Mmatau Makola was born in Limpopo but raised in Mamelodi township in Gauteng, where she matriculated with five distinctions from Mamelodi Secondary School. She didn't bother applying to any universities, but fate intervened and Makola was granted a Carnegie scholarship, securing a place at the University of Pretoria to study Economics.

That was the start of a difficult journey for Makola. It was the first time she had ever been away from home and she stayed in residence. There, she found it difficult to adapt to people of other races, having come from a township where she saw few people who were not black.

Makola wasn't fluent in English, and she had to quickly learn to understand and express herself in it. Technology was also an issue, since she hardly knew how to use a computer. Despite the funding of the scholarship, she had no other financial help and struggled even to afford the basics.

But she overcame all of these challenges and graduated with an Honours degree, becoming the first person in her family to get a degree.

She was immediately employed in the graduate programme at ABSA Bank as a Trainee Operational Banker looking after a public sector portfolio, and was then promoted to Credit Analyst, where she looks after both public sector and business portfolios.

ITUMELENG MASHEGO
FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Itumeleng Mashego matriculated from Lowveld High School in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga, with one distinction. Having been awarded a Carnegie scholarship, Mashego moved to the University of Cape Town to study Accounting.

She stayed in three different residences in the five years she was there and enjoyed the experience in each one. Although she did well in her first year, things went horribly wrong in the second when she failed and was excluded from the university. She had to go to summer school to improve her results in the subject.

The experience taught Mashego that university is all about responsibility. She cut down on social activities and focused on her studies. She completed her Accounting degree with three distinctions and went on to do her Honours through UNISA.

She is currently employed as a Trainee Accountant at SASOL and is on the Sasol Chartered Accountants (CA) Programme in Johannesburg. It is challenging, especially since she's realised that she has to take ownership of her own training and development.

She would like to qualify as a CA and move back to Cape Town, where her husband works.

Her advice to new students is to realise that in the ocean that is university, there will be no one to spoon feed them. They are expected to know what they have to do in order to do well and, if they don't, they will suffer the consequences.

DAKALO MBUVHA
ACTUARIAL SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Dakalo Mbuva performed excellently in Mathematics at school, which guided her choice of career. Matriculating from Mbilwi Secondary School in Venda with six distinctions, she was accepted by Wits University to study Actuarial Science.

Mbuva enjoyed staying in residence as she felt secure, had enough time to devote to her studies, and had responsibilities such as cooking and cleaning taken care of for her. Mbuva found extra motivation in having the Carnegie scholarship, and says students without such financial support were not as driven as those who felt they had someone to work hard for.

Obtaining her Honours degree was a proud moment for Mbuva, who attributes her success to resisting negative peer pressure and her extreme determination.

She now works at ABSA bank as an Actuarial Analyst, where she is responsible for pricing and insurance. Her job makes use of her mathematical skills, but also calls on her more practical abilities such as problem-solving, her powers of observation, and her good communication skills.

She would like to become a qualified Actuary and be in a decision-making position in the next 10 years.



She researched her field of study from all angles before choosing it, and advises would-be students to do the same. She also says students should aim to perform their best in matric so that they open as many doors for themselves as possible.



Her advice to new students is to surround themselves with people who add value to their lives, and be open to accepting new challenges.

PALESA MMUTLE
ACTUARIAL SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE

Palesa Mmutle was part of the first group of students who received the Carnegie Scholarship. She was accepted to study Actuarial Science at the University of the Free State (UFS) after matriculating with a distinction aggregate from Brebner High School in Bloemfontein.

Although the UFS was close to her home, Mmutle stayed in residence for the duration of her studies. She enjoyed the close proximity to academic amenities, which allowed her to go to the library or computer laboratory at all hours, something she would not have been able to do if she stayed at home. Mmutle describes her university years as the best of her life so far.

Mmutle graduated with four distinctions and now works in Standard Bank's Corporate and Investments Banking Division as a Quantitative Analyst. This is not the natural path of progression for someone who has studied Actuarial Science, but Mmutle chose it because she enjoys finance. Her job involves using mathematical, statistical and actuarial techniques to calculate levels of risk for the bank when lending money.

She is working towards qualifying as an Actuary in the future, and also has ambitions to complete either a Masters in Business Administration or a Doctorate and open her own consultancy.



Moonda has ambitions to convert her Law major into a Law degree in the future, and would like to try her hand at writing screenplays and novels.

FIRDOSE MOONDA
ECONOMICS AND LAW
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Firdose Moonda demonstrated her academic potential when she matriculated from Jeppe High School for Girls, Johannesburg, with six distinctions. With both of her parents unemployed, the Carnegie scholarship she was awarded was necessary not only to pay for her studies, but the stipend helped support them as well.

Under these trying circumstances, Moonda enrolled for a Bachelor of Commerce in Law and Economics at the University of the Witwatersrand. She was determined to make full use of the scholarship, without which she never would have gone to university, but a combination of working and studying full-time meant that it was not always possible. However, she successfully completed her degree.

She was introduced to the world of TV sports journalism when she took a three-month job working on a live cricket production. She then returned to university to do her Honours in Journalism, and took up a full-time position with the eNews channel while she completed her second degree.

Moonda found her job challenging, working 10-hour shifts in a deadline-driven environment with a premium on accuracy. She juggled this work with a freelance writing career and when the opportunity arose to write full-time for two websites, she took it. She is now established as a respected sports journalist, currently the South African correspondent for ESPNcricinfo and ESPNsoccer.net.

SIKELELWA NDWAYI
ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Sikelelwa Ndwayi grew up in the Eastern Cape, matriculating top of her class from Mzomhle High School in Mdantsane with one distinction. She was accepted to study Mathematics and Statistics by the University of Cape Town.

Ndwayi stayed in her first residence for two years, but found the students there very snobbish. In her third year, she moved to another, self-catering residence, where she found girls who - like her - were from the townships, which made her feel more at ease.

Ndwayi never doubted her passion for Mathematics, but found that the subject at university was entirely different to the one she had known at school. She changed her course to Economics in her second year.

Then came her year from hell: Ndwayi lost her aunt just before the June exams, and her grandmother shortly before her final exams. She had to write supplementary exams, and failed one course. But she realised she was stronger than she had thought she was, and it's okay not to succeed at the first attempt. She persevered and, after an extra year, completed her degree.

Ndwayi began her career at AQ Rate Verification Services as a BEE Verification Analyst, and now works at the Lewis Group in the same capacity.

She has some tough advice for young students: forget the work/life balance, rather opt only to go out and enjoy themselves once they are satisfied that they are achieving academically.

NKOSAZANA NXASANA
BUSINESS STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Nkosazana Nxasana was schooled at Potchefstroom Girls High School in the North West, where she matriculated with five distinctions. She was accepted by the University of Cape Town, initially to study Actuarial Studies.

Nxasana lived in residence for the duration of her studies, which she found similar to staying in boarding school while at school. While the lifestyle was easy to adjust to, the workload was not. Six months into her first year, Nxasana realised that she was studying something she didn't enjoy. Although it was hard for her to admit that the choice she had originally made had been the wrong one, she was allowed to switch to Business Studies.

Her new path proved to be the correct one and, because she was happier on it, she found it much easier to concentrate on her studies. Nxasana graduated after an uphill battle in which she struggled in her second and third year.

She is now employed as a Business Analyst/Project Manager by Nedbank. Part of her focus is on cutting costs at the company, mainly working at branch level.

In the future, she has ambitions to own her own company and become an investor.

Her advice to new students is never to equate school with university. They will have to adapt to the systems that make a tertiary institution work, which are quite different to the ones they experienced at school.

She has plans to branch out into the property sector in the future. Allie is also a new mother and, once her baby has grown a little, would also like to further her studies.

REZINA ALLIE
BUSINESS SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Rezina Allie matriculated from Collegiate High School in Port Elizabeth with five distinctions, and moved to Cape Town to study Business Science at the University of Cape Town.

She stayed with her grandmother during her studies and, although she was still living with family, she found herself plunged into a world of new freedoms, which she struggled to handle responsibly at first. A further impediment to her academic success was when her grandmother fell ill, and Allie needed to care for her. This resulted in her missing classes and falling behind in her work, but she saw caring for her grandmother as being one of her responsibilities.

Allie did not make dual performance requirements for three of her subjects. That resulted in her taking five years to complete her three-year degree. She saw a life coach who helped her cope with her difficulties, and ended up graduating with good marks. A combination of a fear of failure and determination to get through is what led her eventually to succeed.

She currently works as a Research Analyst at the Oasis Group Holdings in Cape Town. Allie is exposed to different challenges every day and feels that, in her line of work, she needs to exhibit tolerance and calm, and be able to accept her mistakes.

Pillay advises new students to create a solid work/life balance for themselves, to make friends, and to open themselves up to as many new experiences as possible.

SHEVANI PILLAY
ACTUARIAL SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Shevani Pillay toyed with the idea of becoming a doctor while at Sastri College in KwaZulu-Natal. But after matriculating with seven distinctions and being awarded a Carnegie scholarship, she decided she wanted a challenge of a more technical nature. She made the journey inland to study Actuarial Science at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Pillay stayed with family while studying and doesn't regret not experiencing residence life. She found the adjustment to university life quite tricky, but soon discovered that pursuing the field of Actuarial Science had been the correct decision. It provided her with the challenge she so desired, keeping her on her toes.

Pillay completed her degree with nine distinctions in the minimum required time. She attributes her achievements to being able to concentrate fully on her studies, mainly thanks to the financial support provided by Carnegie. It also alleviated the burden of paying for her studies from her family, for which she is very grateful.

She now works at Hannover Group Africa as an Actuarial Assistant. Pillay has one exam to write before she qualifies as an Actuary, and sees her future in consulting. She jokes that if she ever feels the need to study again for seven years, she may give medicine a try!

MILLICENT SEITEBALENG RAGOLEKA
MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Millicent Ragoleka's matriculated with six distinctions from Johannesburg-based Metropolitan Raucall. Because this school is affiliated to the University of Johannesburg, most of her friends enrolled to study there. Ragoleka chose a different path, opting to go to the University of Cape Town instead, where she studied Mathematics and Statistics.

She believes this helped her to mature, since she had to move away from home and adjust to a new place and new experiences. Ragoleka stayed in residence and found the convenience of being on-campus helpful.

Ragoleka registered to do Actuarial Science and then switched to Mathematics and Statistics, which involved changing only some of her courses. She completed her degree with above-average marks, and attributes her success to setting small goals, having a plan, and sticking to it.

She worked at Standard Bank after graduating, an environment she found comfortable, but has now taken up a Graduate Trainee position at NM Rothschild. She would like to do her Masters in Social Development in the future, and work for the World Bank's Social Development Unit.

Ragoleka's advice to new students is to have patience. They have to give themselves time to absorb all the new information that they will be presented with, and not panic if they don't understand everything at first. While they must be serious about work, they should leave room for a little bit of fun too.

CECILIA SELEPE
ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Cecilia Selepe wanted to be a traffic cop when she was at Thuto-Pele High School in the North West because she thought she wouldn't be able to study further. How wrong she was. After matriculating with three distinctions, she was awarded the Carnegie scholarship and accepted to study Economics by the University of the Witwatersrand.

She stayed in the university residence throughout her studies, which she found to be very convenient and resource-friendly. Despite losing her mother while Selepe was at university and failing two of her courses, she graduated after four years of study.

Selepe is currently employed by First National Bank as an Economics Research Analyst. Her job entails keeping tabs on global financial changes, which requires a keen interest in reading, excellent interpretational ability, and a sharp memory. She aims to become a Senior Economics Specialist in the future.

Selepe takes care of her family since the death of her mother, and attributes her success to working hard and being buoyed by these responsibilities.

She advises new students to realise that there will be no one policing their studies at tertiary level, so they will have to rely on their own determination and discipline if they are going to succeed.



Sulliman says the essential personality traits to be successful in her profession are the ability to relate to others, knowing how to approach and deal with people. Thankfully, interacting well with people is one of her greatest strengths.

MONITA SULLIMAN
ACCOUNTING
STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

Monita Sulliman knew she wanted to be in the accounting field from the time she was at High School Upington, the Northern Cape, because she was good with numbers. She achieved three distinctions in matric, was granted a Carnegie scholarship, and so embarked on her studies in Accounting at Stellenbosch University.

She stayed in residence, which she thoroughly enjoyed, mainly because she made incredibly supportive, good friends there.

Having successfully completed her undergraduate Accounting degree, Sulliman went on to do her Honours. This was a daunting challenge, especially when faced with the prospect of five-hour exams. However, she ended up passing well, and went on to pass her Accounting Board exams as well.

Her career started at PriceWaterhouseCoopers in Paarl, the Western Cape, where she completed her Articles in Auditing. She then moved to Standard Bank as an IT Finance Manager, before rejoining PriceWaterhouseCoopers in November 2010 where she is due to work in the Cayman Islands.

She currently offers extra Accounting lessons to students in Paarl as a way of giving back to the community. This is quite a feat, seeing how her work involves working long hours, sometimes even on weekends and during holidays.

Her advice to new students is to be wary of becoming involved with a group of friends who lead them astray, and to make sure their own goals to achieve academically remain their first priority.

NONCEDO THOANE
ACCOUNTING
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Noncedo Thoane matriculated with an exemption from St James High School in Aliwal North, the Eastern Cape. Although she didn't think she would get the opportunity to further her studies, she was interested in Accounting.

She was fortunate enough to be granted a Carnegie scholarship, which enabled her to enrol for a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting at Wits University. She hit a rocky patch in her studies when she failed her third year, and she was afraid that she would be taken off the Carnegie Scholarship Programme. Luckily, the scholarship made provision for an extra year of funding and she was allowed to stay on. That experience motivated her even more to succeed, and she got through her degree with a C-aggregate.

Thoane is currently employed as a Financial Analyst at First National Bank, where, just like at university, her biggest challenge is meeting all her deadlines. She would like to work in the State Treasury in the future. She believes she has the right qualities to succeed there, which are good communication skills and an eye of numbers.

ELANA VAN ZYL
ACCOUNTING
STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

Elana van Zyl hails from the small town of Kakamas in the Northern Cape, where she matriculated with exemption from Martin Oosthuizen High School.

Van Zyl's life-changing opportunity came about when she was granted a Carnegie scholarship to study Accounting at Stellenbosch University.

She found the transition to living in the relatively bigger city of Stellenbosch difficult, and was overwhelmed staying in a residence with over 1000 students. She credits the support staff at the Carnegie office with helping her fit into her new surroundings, and always being around when she needed to talk. Van Zyl spent three years in residence before moving into a flat in her fourth year because she felt she needed some space.

She graduated cum laude with a degree in Accounting, and lives near the sea in the Western Cape. Van Zyl is employed by Rooibos, having started off in the Financial Department and then being promoted to Marketing. The most challenging part about her work is communicating with foreign clients and overcoming the language barrier. She believes her skills as a people's person help her engage successfully with everyone.

Van Zyl has ambitions to become the Marketing Manager and would also like to complete her Honours degree.

Van Zyl's advice to young South Africans is to seize any and every opportunity that comes their way, and see where it takes them.

FRANCES VISAGIE
ACCOUNTING
STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

Frances Visagie grew up in Upington in the Northern Cape and matriculated from Carlton van Heerden Secondary School with three distinctions. Her father encouraged her to study Accounting, which she did at Stellenbosch University.

Visagie stayed in the university residence and enjoyed learning about her fellow students' cultures and perspectives on life. She kept the balance between academic and social life by making sure she never forgot the essential reason for being at university: to get her degree.

But she found studying Accounting very demanding, with such an intense workload that she often felt she wanted to give up. However, Visagie's resolve to continue was strengthened by her faith, since she was convinced that her Lord had sent her to university for a reason, and she wanted to fulfil that purpose.

Her marks were average, but she completed her degree in the minimum time, and then secured a job at PriceWaterhouseCoopers as an Internal Auditor. Two years into her tenure at the firm, she moved to Muizenberg to take up missionary work.

Visagie says she was called by God to abandon the corporate world and the career her degree qualified her for to take up religious work. She intends putting her Accounting degree to good use in the service of the Church, and has already started doing some of the bookkeeping.



In the future, Visagie has ambitions to open a children's home, where she knows her skills with numbers will once again be of use.



She recommends that students immerse themselves in university culture, but also study hard while having fun.

SAMUKELISIWE ZULU

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Samukelisiwe Zulu grew up in the village of Nqutu in rural KwaZulu-Natal, and matriculated with five distinctions from Mathunjwa High School. As no one in her family had a phone, it was a friend of hers from school who got the call to say Zulu had been awarded a Carnegie scholarship. She was accepted to study Financial Accounting by the University of Cape Town.

Zulu stayed in residence and mostly enjoyed the experience, although she didn't enjoy sharing a room. She didn't get very involved in campus activities and regrets not doing so.

The course was much harder than Zulu had anticipated. She battled with English and was too shy to ask questions. She wasn't computer literate, and it once took her three days to type a 1500-word assignment. She had to repeat her second year, but eventually graduated successfully. Her mother and grandmother travelled 18 hours by bus to be at her graduation ceremony, and Zulu regards that day as the start of her life.

She is currently employed as an Assistant Accountant at Luiz and Associates, where she undertakes audits, offers financial year-end accounting services, works with close corporations, and handles taxation issues.

Zulu would like to qualify as a Chartered Accountant and one day become the Financial Director of her own company. She is a mother of a little girl, and currently helps her younger sister to pay for her studies.



Natural, Life & Earth Sciences

life sci·ence

[lahyf • sahy-uhns]

–noun

1. Any science that deals with living organisms, their life processes, and their interrelationships, as biology, medicine, or ecology.

Origin:

1940–45

–Related forms

life scientist, *noun*

–Definition

1. Any branch of natural science
2. Biology, chemistry, life sciences, physics, pure science, science of matter

–Synonyms:

1. Animal biology, anthropology, biological science, biology, bioscience, botany, ecology, environmental science, medicine, natural science, science of life, study of living things, zoology.
2. Biology, chemistry, life sciences, physics, pure science, science of matter

*Dictionary.com Unabridged
Based on the Random House Dictionary, © Random
House, Inc. 2010.*

earth sci·ence

[urth • sahy-uhns]

–noun

1. Any of various sciences, as geography, geology, or meteorology, that deal with the earth, its composition, or any of its changing aspects.
2. Also called geoscience.

Origin:

1935–40

–Related forms

earth scientist, *noun*

*Dictionary.com Unabridged
Based on the Random House Dictionary, © Random
House, Inc. 2010.*

TESSA CAMPBELL
ARCHAEOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

As a child, Tessa Campbell built up a precious collection of different dinosaur models. It was a sign of things to come, because once she had matriculated with six distinctions from Plumstead High School in Cape Town, she was off to the University of Cape Town to study Archaeology.

She stayed at home during her studies - a decision she doesn't regret, because she would hear regular complaints about the food from students who did stay in residence.

Campbell admits being overwhelmed with the amount of work she was faced with at university. But she learnt to take it in her stride, and graduated with 14 distinctions.

Campbell is now doing her Doctorate in Archaeology. Her area of study has taken her on many travels throughout the country doing fieldwork and obtaining samples for research.

Her advice to new students is to start work from the very first day of the academic year. They must be prepared to put in hard work and, if they do, they will reap the results.

CANDICE CARELSE
GEOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCE
STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

Candice Carelse hails from a mining town called Steinkopf in the Northern Cape. Having grown up around these mines, she developed an interest in working in them. Once she'd matriculated from Steinkopf High School - the top achiever that year in the Northern Cape matric exams - Carelse was accepted to study for her Bachelor of Science in Geology and Earth Science at Stellenbosch University. Carelse is particularly grateful to the Carnegie Fund, since, without their financial support, she may never have gone to university at all.

Carelse moved from home to the university residence, where she spent four years. She found all the rules governing the residence difficult to live with, and has since moved into a student house, which she prefers because of the freedom it allows her.

She graduated with decent results from her undergraduate degree and has moved on to study a Masters in Geology, which she is funding herself. Her aim is to work in Mineralogy in the future.

Carelse's advice to new students is to make friends at university as this will help them adjust to this new phase in their lives.



Her advice to South Africa's youth is to strive for the best and never settle for less.

ZANELE CHAMANE

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Zanele Chamane was born in Soweto in Johannesburg, but matriculated from Siphosabadletshe Secondary School in Durban with two distinctions. She was interested in the medical field while at school, but changed her mind and was accepted to study Biological Sciences at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Chamane struggled initially and failed her first year, but eventually triumphed and completed her degree. She then decided to switch paths and began studying a degree in Architecture. Her obsession for study is, she says, fuelled by the fact that she is the only one in her family who has got a university degree.

She warns new students that first year can be very tricky and they must do everything in their power to avoid failing it. She also says it's important to form good friendships, as she did in residence, and not to be influenced by unsavoury friends in the early stages of one's university career.

She would like to work as a qualified Architect and run her own business in the future.



In the future, Coetzee hopes to own a biotechnology company, or to be doing research in a laboratory.

BEATRIX COETZEE

MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY

STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

Beatrix Coetzee comes from Leipoldtville, in the Western Cape, a town so small that it doesn't even have a high school. She matriculated with seven distinctions from the Port Augsberg Agricultural Gymnasium in Clanwilliam. She was interested in Science, Engineering and Medicine, but chose the first because of her interest in genetics.

Coetzee was accepted to study Molecular and Cell Biology at Stellenbosch University where she stayed in residence during her undergraduate years. Now doing her Masters in Genetics, she has moved into a student house for females. She enjoys the homely atmosphere of the student house and is particularly pleased not to have to share a room anymore.

Coetzee distinguished herself in her university studies, earning her undergraduate degree cum laude with As in all but one subject, and graduating from her Honours degree with distinctions in all subjects.

But despite all this success, Coetzee feels that she could have managed her time better. She says she was a bookworm and often spent free time in the library, instead of rewarding herself with a coffee break. She regrets not participating in activities, such as sports, offered on campus.

She has already started working with youngsters back in Leipoldtville, where she encourages the primary school learners to finish high school. She also mentors first-year students.

CAITLYNNE FRANCIS
CHEMICAL MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Caitlynne Francis matriculated from Kensington High School, Cape Town, with four distinctions. She was accepted by the University of Cape Town (UCT) to study her first passion, natural sciences. Francis initially wanted to major in Microbiology and Biochemistry but then decided Marine Biology was the field for her.

The day Francis heard she had been granted a Carnegie scholarship was the happiest and the saddest day of her life. Elated to have received the scholarship, tragedy occurred that same day when her father passed away.

Francis managed to handle her grief and face up to the challenges of tertiary education. She chose to stay at her home in Cape Town to avoid the noisy lifestyle that comes with residence. She found it difficult to study constructively at first, but when she found her rhythm, she was on track. She graduated with above-average results and went on to complete her Honours.

She is currently doing her Masters degree, funded by the National Research Foundation and UCT. She is also learning French, Spanish and Zulu and would like to study aspects of Environmental Law. Francis' ambition is to become the City Manager of Cape Town in the future.

She warns new students that university will present them with a lot of temptations, and the best way to get through first year is to resist them all and remember why they are studying. She advises them to be committed and disciplined, because it's easy to fall off the path.

ELIZABETH LOUW
BIOCHEMISTRY
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Elizabeth Louw was born and raised in Limpopo and matriculated from Pietersburg High School. Being awarded a scholarship by Carnegie made a huge difference to Louw, who attributes her success at university to being free from financial worries. Louw was accepted by the University of Pretoria to study for a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry.

Louw lived a studious university life, staying in residence for her undergraduate degree and then moving home when studying for her Honours. She was very selective about her choice of friends while staying in residence and believes that this is essential to succeed. She says that getting mixed up with people who don't care about why they are at university is a common mistake new students make.

As she had always been an academic achiever at school, Louw wanted to continue to be so through her university career. She achieved this goal with aplomb, passing 32 of her subjects with distinction and graduating cum laude with her Honours degree.

She travelled to the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands from October to December 2008 to undertake research for her Masters degree. She describes her research topic as complicated but important, looking at anti-tick vaccine targets for the cattle tick *Boophilus microplus*.



Louw's advice to students is to go to university with a good idea of what they want to study and, if possible, to stick to it. She did exactly that and it worked for her.

Her advice to would-be students is that they fully research their study and career options so that the choices they make are founded on solid information.

LESLEY ANNE LUBBE
BIO-ORGANIC CHEMISTRY
STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

Lesley Anne Lubbe matriculated from Carlton van Heerden High school in the Northern Cape and, with the financial assistance provided by the Carnegie Scholarship, went to Stellenbosch University to study Bio-organic Chemistry.

The Stellenbosch residence was her home for the first two years and, although it had its conveniences, Lubbe didn't like the lack of privacy and the number of people she shared amenities with. She also didn't enjoy the compulsory activities or the walking distance from her classes. She moved into a flat for the remainder of her studies and preferred the freedom it gave her.

That freedom didn't translate into better results, though, and there's an air of disappointment about Lubbe, who says she wishes she had performed better. What should have been a three-year degree took her five years to complete, one of them without the assistance of the scholarship. The problem, she says, is that she had a religious epiphany in her third year, and became such a dedicated church-goer that she lost focus on her studies.

Lubbe has since embarked on a new path and is studying towards a teaching qualification. She plans to teach in South Africa and then go overseas for a while. Lubbe has continued on her religious path. She plays guitar in a church band, and hopes to do missionary work in the future.



RONÉ LUTTIG
BIOCHEMISTRY
UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG

Roné Luttig was head girl at Marais Viljoen High School in Johannesburg, and matriculated with seven distinctions. Wanting to stay close to her mother, a single-mum of three, Luttig applied to the University of Johannesburg and was accepted to study for a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry.

She stayed at her home throughout her studies and found it convenient because it was close to the campus. It also allowed her to have the best of both worlds – the peace of studying at home and then partying with friends on campus.

Luttig had a rude awakening to university when she failed her first test, getting just 37%. Luttig pushed herself harder to do well, while ensuring she made time to let off steam by playing netball and hockey. She graduated with 23 distinctions at undergraduate level and three in her Honours.

Luttig found it difficult to get a job, but eventually found work as a Product Coordinator at Savannah Fine Chemicals. Her job is to ensure that products supplied to the food and cosmetic industry are always in stock and of a high quality.

Good presentation skills are essential to her work, and she recommends that students aim to master these while at university.

She says that new students must be aware that university is not just about academic studies, but also about learning to adapt to new environments.

CHARRITEY MAKATINI
CHEMISTRY
UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Charritey Makatini grew up in Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu-Natal, matriculating from Heather Secondary School with one distinction. She applied to the University of KwaZulu-Natal and was accepted to study for a Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Science.

Makatini experienced university life living both on and off campus. She stayed at home for her first year before moving to the university residence. She preferred living on campus because she had easy access to the libraries and laboratories.

After graduating, an internship at Anglo-American appeared to open the door to her dream career. Unfortunately for Makatini, she was not offered a job at the company after completing her traineeship and had to look for other opportunities. She is currently studying towards her Masters degree.



Makatini's advice to first-year students is: be careful of "wolves" out there, but be ready to make good friends, and remember what you are really at university to achieve.

NIVRITHY MOODLEY
MICROBIAL BIOTECHNOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Nivrithy Moodley was born and raised in Durban and matriculated from Mountview Secondary School with five distinctions. She was accepted by the University of KwaZulu-Natal to study Electrical Engineering.

This meant that Moodley could stay at home with her parents during her studies. She had to make a tough decision when, in her second year, she realised she did not enjoy Engineering anymore, and changed degrees. She started studying for a Bachelor of Science in Microbial Biotechnology.

Moodley graduated with one distinction and was accepted to do her Honours, a defining moment in her life. She was unsure about finding employment and chose to study further. She is now an M.Tech student at Durban University of Technology and has ambitions to go on and do her Doctorate.

Her message to young people is to keep dreaming, but to make sure those dreams are firmly rooted in reality. Her own experience of having to change her field of study leads her to caution would-be students to do proper research into study options. She suggests career counselling if necessary.

Moodley also says that learners have to realise that they will have to function as independent people once they get to university, so they should learn to depend on themselves.



Nothing will just come to you while you sit and wait. Stand up, do something, and people will notice and give you a hand.



Her advice to new students is to thoroughly research the scholarships and bursaries that are available if funding is a potential obstacle to their studies.

MABORE MORIFI
MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Maori Morifi tale is one of good fortune, because she would not have received the Carnegie scholarship if it wasn't for a friend. A classmate of Morifi's at Motse Marea High School in Limpopo gave her the Carnegie application form because she thought Morifi had a good chance of being awarded the scholarship. Having matriculated with two distinctions and secured the scholarship, Morifi was accepted by Wits University to study Biotechnology.

Staying in the university residence, Morifi excelled in her undergraduate course, obtaining three distinctions. Perseverance saw her go on to become one of eight Honours graduates in Human Genetics, and the only black student in her class.

She cites as her biggest challenge in her current work at the National Health Laboratory the fact that there is no room for error. Morifi is a Medical Scientist intern in the Somatic Cell Genetics unit, where her main task is to study haematological cancers. She uses both conventional and advanced techniques and performs specimen preparation and analysis.

Morifi is due to qualify and register with the Health Professionals Council of South Africa at the end of 2010.

Ever since she was a student, Morifi has been mindful of the importance of being accurate and thorough.



Her advice to new students is to prioritise well and to use university resources to the full.

MARIA MUKANGA
GENETICS
UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE

Maria Mukanga was born in Zambia and grew up in South Africa. She matriculated from Homevale High School with two distinctions. Her English teacher encouraged her to apply for the Carnegie scholarship because she needed financial assistance to go to university. She was accepted by the University of the Free State to study for a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Biology.

She moved into residence at first, and then stayed with a relative before finally moved into a flat. She found the experience of independent living liberating, but also stressful. Mukanga found it challenging budgeting for herself and not being spoon-fed at an academic level.

She only knuckled down to work when she realised she'd never succeed if she just messed around. She also realised she had to have confidence in her own abilities and stop comparing herself to other students. She needed an extra year to complete her degree.

Mukanga currently works as a teacher at St Boniface High School in the Northern Cape. If she stays in the teaching profession, she would like to be promoted to head of department and then to the position of principal, and eventually plans to work in the provincial or national departments of education.

However, Mukanga still has ambitions to become a neurosurgeon.

KANTHI NAIR
BIOMOLECULAR TECHNOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Kanthi Nair grew up in a close-knit family in Dundee, outside Durban. She matriculated from Dundee Secondary School with straight As and applied to study Biomolecular Technology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). Her principal gave her the Carnegie scholarship form. She considers herself lucky to have received both the scholarship and a place to study her first choice degree at the UKZN.

She moved into residence and found it difficult to adjust, especially having to share her space with others. The gap between high school and university also became evident to Nair when faced with the incredibly heavy workload.

She remembers her graduation day as if it was yesterday, obtaining her Bachelor of Science degree with 27 distinctions and seven more at Honours level. She obtained both her degrees cum laude.

However, she has not followed the path she studied for because she couldn't find a job close to her home and needed to be there to take care of her ailing mother. She currently works as a Mathematics teacher at her old school.

In 2010, Nair enrolled for a post-graduate Diploma in Education. She says she will continue working as an educator since attributes like patience and being a good listener make her a good teacher.



She advises new university students to put in a lot of hard work at the beginning of the year and not to be afraid to ask questions when they don't understand.

SHIREEN PEREL
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

Shireen Perel grew up in Dysselsdorp, just outside Oudtshoorn in the Western Cape. She matriculated from Dysselsdorp Secondary School with two distinctions, a double achievement because she was the first in the school's 18-year existence to have matriculated with even one A, never mind two. She wanted to study Medicine, but was only accepted to study for her second choice, a Bachelor of Science degree, at Stellenbosch University.

Perel moved out of home and into residence, a daunting experience for a small-town girl. She found it hard getting used to being around fellow students all the time and, being one of only a handful of non-white students in a predominantly white residence, dealing with cultural differences was not always easy for her.

But she eventually enjoyed herself so much that she spent a total of six years at university. Perel earned three distinctions at undergraduate level, two at Honours level and had completed her Masters degree in Genetics and Medical Physics by the age of 24.

She is currently employed as a Forensics Analyst in the South African Police Services in George, the Western Cape. It's been a learning curve, not least because she's had her first experience of failure, having to repeat the police shooting test.

Perel has been back to her old high school to motivate learners with the story of her own success. Her advice to new students is to make good friends, because you can learn a lot from them.



Her advice to new students is to take their studies seriously, and only indulge in a social life within limits.

PHUMZA PHILLIPS

**CHEMICAL, MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR BIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN**

Pumza Phillips grew up in Gugulethu, a township in Cape Town. She matriculated from Oaklands High School with exemption, and was accepted by the University of Cape Town to study for a Bachelor of Science degree specialising in Chemical, Molecular and Cellular Biology.

Phillips stayed in residence, but adjusting to university at first seemed beyond her and she struggled to stay focused on her studies. Her first year was a year she would rather forget: she failed four of her courses.

After that rough start, things improved for Phillips. She became a born-again Christian, and graduated from her undergraduate degree with one distinction before going on to complete an Honours degree. As a senior student, Phillips qualified for her own room in residence, which she loves.

Phillips is currently doing her Masters degree and her research topic is cancer. She plans to go on to do her Doctorate.

She is involved in community work through a youth development project, which provides youngsters with educational and moral support.

Ashira would tell new students that they are given a considerable amount of freedom and what they do with the freedom will determine how successful you eventually are.

ASHIRA ROOPNARAIN

**MICROBIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND**

Ashira was born in Durban and grew up in Estcourt in KwaZulu-Natal. She matriculated with 6 distinctions from Drakensburg Secondary School.

She applied to numerous universities for admission, but settled for Microbiology at WITS because of her love for science. Initially she stayed with family, but when she started her post-graduate studies, she decided to move into university residence. Residence life ensured that she was close to campus and laboratory and did not experience the stress levels of having to travel to campus everyday.

Ashira tells how different university life is from school life. She doesn't see it as a bad thing, but rather says it's what you make of the different experience. There is time for fun, but you also need to keep in mind why you are at university and never give up, even when things don't look promising.

Ashira is currently doing her Masters degree in Microbiology and would look to upgrade to a PhD during the course of the year. In her studies, she is in the process of optimizing a photo bioreactor for the mass production of microalgae to be used to produce biodiesel. She attempts to play a small role in mitigating the effects of global warming and to enhance her scientific skills.

ZITA SCHEEPERS

BIOCHEMISTRY

UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE

Zita Scheepers knew that the only way she would get to university was with fundin, and was grateful when her principal at Oranje Girls High School in Bloemfontein gave her the Carnegie Scholarship form to complete. After matriculating with one distinction, she was awarded the scholarship. She was also accepted by the University of the Free State to study Biochemistry.

She moved into a hostel on campus and enjoyed the experience, saying it was “wonderful because I learnt to rely on myself”.

She didn’t find academic work a battle, completing her degree over five years and graduating with four distinctions.

Out in the working world, Scheepers first got a job as a Medical Sales Representative at Quintiles Innovex, before getting a permanent position at Sandoz, where she visits doctors to promote the company’s products. Her job is challenging because she has to meet monthly targets, but she enjoys travelling and meeting new people, while using the knowledge she gained in her degree.

She intends applying for a managerial position and would like to work as a Regional Sales Manager in the future. Scheepers is also currently studying for a degree in Civil Engineering.

She has been back to her old school to talk to learners about the importance of education.



Her advice to new students is to trust their own instincts, stick to what they know, and not be afraid to make mistakes.

LORY-KAY SLINGER

BIOCHEMISTRY

STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

Lory Key Slinger comes from a small village in George in the Western Cape called Pacaltsdorp. She was the first member of her family to go to university, with the welcome financial assistance of a Carnegie scholarship. She did a career assessment in her final year at George High School and decided to apply for a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry at Stellenbosch University.

Slinger stayed in the university residence for her first two years of study before moving into a flat. In the third year of her Bachelor of Science studies, she suffered a setback when she was diagnosed with an eye-sight problem. It affected her ability to use a microscope and so negatively affected her studies, and she needed an operation to sort it out.

Slinger pulled through with the support of family and friends and completed her degree in 2008. She then enrolled at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology to study Chemical Engineering.

There are three areas in her field in which she would like to specialise: Biotechnology, in the petrochemical industry, or in the food industry.

Her advice to new students is to make friends – but with the kind of people who are a positive influence in your life, and don’t mess you around.



In the future, Twala would like to add a Masters of Business Administration to her already impressive collection of degrees.

BUSISIWE TWALA
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Busisiwe Twala wanted to study further in the sciences ever since she schooled at Unity High in Daveyton, Gauteng. Her science teacher at the school persuaded her that she should study Biological Sciences, and after matriculating, she was accepted at Wits University to do so.

Twala opted to stay in a private residence, enjoying the extra time and freedoms that this allowed her. She found the adjustment to university difficult, though, especially because she had chosen such a demanding discipline to study. The amount of research and self-study that she had to do initially overwhelmed her, but she soon got used to asking for help when she needed it and pushing herself harder to do better.

Having successfully completed her undergraduate degree, Twala went on to become the top student in her Honours class.

She is currently busy with her Masters degree in Science in the field of Biochemistry. Although she is not at liberty to reveal all the details of her research project, she indicates that it aims to develop novel techniques that can be applied in therapeutics and diagnostics.

Besides doing her Masters, Twala works for the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research on a student internship. The job is challenging because of the dedication and commitment needed in laboratory work.



Tye's advice to new students is to thoroughly research the profession they want to enter, and to make sure they choose a field of study they know they enjoy.

DARINE TYE
BIOCHEMISTRY
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Darine Tye matriculated from Collegiate Girls High School, Port Elizabeth, with three distinctions. Her dearest dream was to study at the University of Cape Town (UCT), but she knew it was beyond the financial reach of her parents. It was the Carnegie scholarship that made her dreams come true, because with its assistance she packed her bags for Cape Town to study for a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry.

She would have liked to stay in residence during the first year of her studies, but moved in with a family friend in Diep Rivier. Living so far from UCT meant that she battled to get to and from campus daily, so, from her second year onwards, she stayed in a flat closer to university.

She graduated with one distinction and above-average marks, and says she has achieved many of the academic goals she set herself. She now wants to concentrate on developing life skills.

Tye currently works as a Specifications Specialist for Unilever in La Lucia, Durban. She has been promoted twice in her job and hopes to become the team leader in her department one day. She deals with a lot on international clients, and has discovered that communication skills are key because they help people feel comfortable with those they are doing business with.

Making a career choice is one of the most important decisions a learner makes. It is therefore imperative that learners have the necessary information and get advice before making decisions.

The NQF and Career Advice Helpline is part of SAQA's mandate to oversee the development and implementation of the NQF. One of the objectives of the NQF is to facilitate access to, and mobility and progression within, education, training and career paths.

The national career advice helpline is based on a lifelong learning framework and on the values of equal opportunity and social justice.

**YOU CAN CONTACT THE CAREER ADVICE
HELPLINE NUMBER: 086 0111 673
E-MAIL ADDRESS: help@nqf.org.za**



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA