



# Dintshang

Student Newspaper • November 2021 | Edition



## SMU SRC 2021/2022 Elections Successfully Completed

*See the list of the New SRC 2021/2022 Council Members*



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# MEET THE NEW SEFAKO MAKGATHO UNIVERSITY 2021/2022 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS




## EXTERNAL ELECTIONS SCRUTINISERS (EES)

### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS SEFAKO MAKGATHO UNIVERSITY ( 2021/22)

	NAME & SURNAME	POSITION	ORGANISATION
1	PHILANI MDAKANE	PRESIDENT	SASCO
2	YANGA NGCESE	DEPUTY PRESIDENT	SASCO
3	DANIEL MASEKWAMENG	SECRETARY	SCF
4	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>DEPUTY SECRETARY</b>	<b>ANCYL</b>
5	PRINCE KHUMALO	TREASURER	PASSO
6	TSHIAMO SECHOGO	PROJECTS AND CAMPAIGNS OFFICER	ANCYL
7	MUTSHIDZI MAPHIRI	CULTURE AND RELIGION OFFICER	ANCYL
8	NIZIBONE MADABANE	SPORT AND RECREATION OFFICER	EFFSC
9	NKATEKO RISIMATI	RESIDENCE OFFICER	SASCO

	NAME & SURNAME	SCHOOL CHAIRPERSONS	ORGANISATION
10	BONGINKOSI SKOSANA	MEDICINE	EFFSC
11	LUYANDA KHUMALO	PHARMACY	SASCO
12	HOPE RASWISWI	HEALTH CARE SCIENCES	SASCO
13	PETER MOSHANYANE	ORAL HEALTH SCIENCES	EFFSC
14	TSHIAMO KGAPHOLA	SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	ANCYL
15	HLAYISEKASHIKWAMBANA	CHAIRPERSON OF POSTGRADUATES	SCF

Advocacy and Diversity Office  
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# Former SMU SRC President Thato Masekoa reflects on their term of office which ended recently



Former SRC President Thato Masekoa is very proud of the achievements scored by his committee during their term of office which ended recently. Masekoa says they were happy to see the commencement of the 2000 beds residential facility at SMU.

*“The sod turning of the 2000 beds residential facility was a highlight for us. Many of the past student leaders worked hard to ensure the realization of this dream and it was a pleasure to see it realized during our term of office. I also think it was a proud moment for us after we got approval to bring restaurants such as Debonairs and Steers amongst others to Campus as we believe this will transform the lives of students in a significant way”, he said.*

He credits the teamwork of the SRC he led for working together towards common goals regardless of their different political affiliations and backgrounds. He says at times it was not easy though as there were squabbles and disagreements on a number of issues. However, what was important for them was to work for the greater good of students who put them in office and make sure that they were served as per their expectations.

As the former President, he believes there are things he also did personally to contribute to SMU and amongst them, he mentions standing up against those he says wanted to ‘monopolize’ the University.

*“My biggest interest was to see students at the centre of discussions and I rejected anything that was not to benefit the students of SMU. The status quo, had to be changed to one that was student centred and not about individuals at the exclusion of students”, he emphasized.*

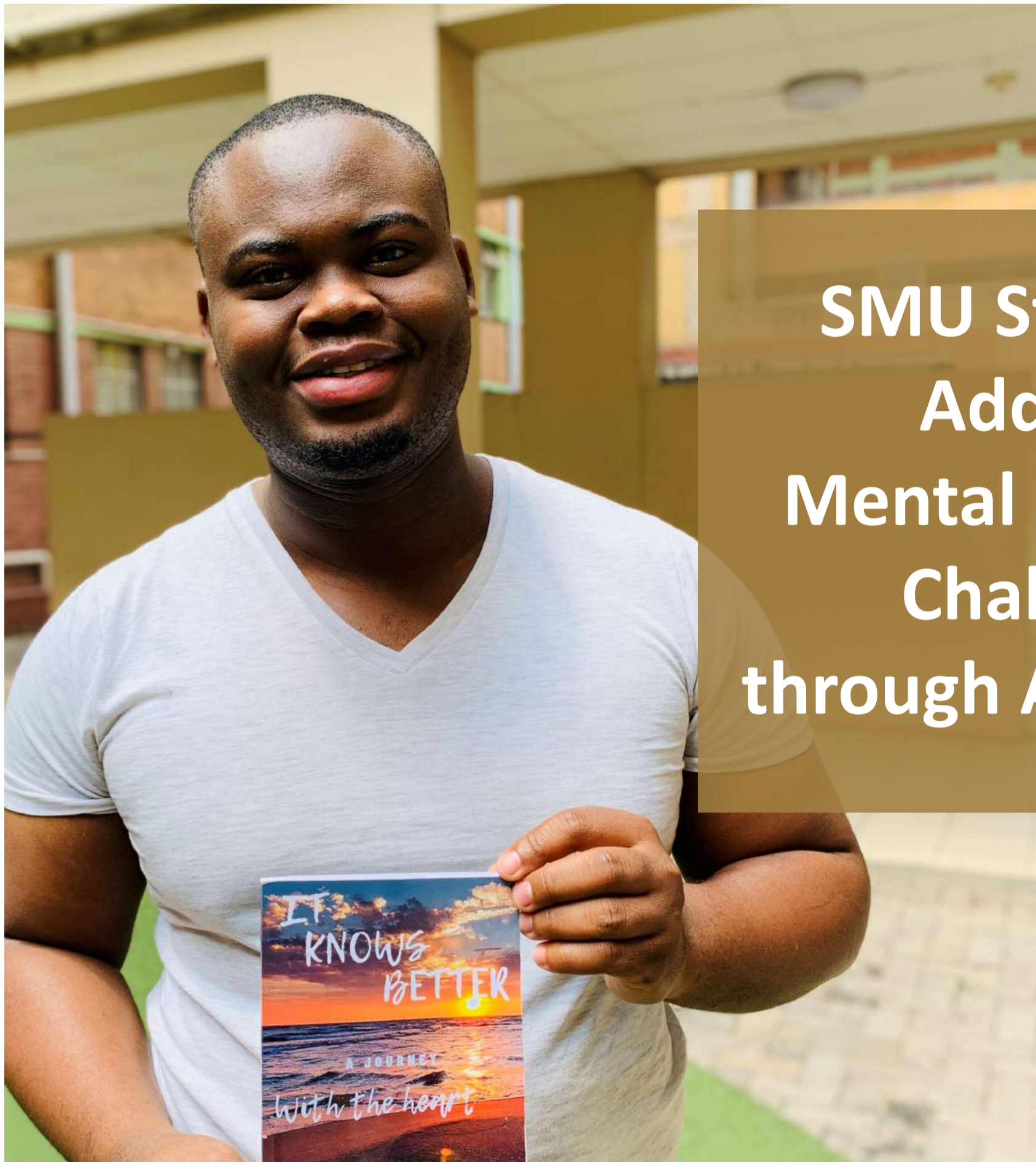
Masekoa looks back and believes that they made an impact too in the area of student entrepreneurship.

*“We came up with Student Entrepreneurship programmes that teach students on how to change their thinking towards Entrepreneurship because that is another way we can save our families from the devastating effects of poverty in future”, he said.*

His advice to the newly elected SRC is that they should do justice to students by serving them properly and make sure that they are not influenced by anyone. “They should not allow anyone to buy them booze for exploitation or to exploit the student body at large. These are some of the challenges they may face”, warned the former President.

His message to SMU students is that people must strive to make an impact as they live and make a difference in the lives of others. He believes that they touched and transformed lives during their term of office. He concluded by saying, “May the best of the past be the worst of the future”, a chant he consistently used when addressing students throughout his term of office.

Masekoa will continue his role as a member of the South African Union of Students (SAUS) and says they still have a lot of work to do during their term and remain advocates of students to make sure they are served right by all institutions of higher learning.



# SMU Student Addresses Mental Health Challenges through A Book

Physiotherapy student and author, Mahuna Raphala, wrote a book titled *It Knows Better* to address the challenges of mental health. Dintshang Student Newspaper held an interview with him to share more information on the issues addressed in the book.

## 1. Briefly, tell us about the book, *It Knows Better*.

As the title entails, *It Knows Better*, is a journey with the heart. What knows better here is the heart itself. This is because everything that we go through, good or bad, happiness or sadness, it is the ultimate receiver of whatever circumstance, as the powerhouse of all feelings. The saddest part here is that, unlike headaches and others, a heartache has no medication. Therefore, in this book, you will find prayers, quotes and mostly poems that confront mental health. It focuses more on pain, sufferings, frustrations and especially depression.

The author understands that as much as we are all fighting demons of our own, there is still hope, that things will get better and tomorrow may be just that day, or perhaps even next year. The bottom line is, we cannot remain a hurt nation, and we will find healing at the end of our painful, sorrowful and depressing journeys. We will deal with whatever issue we are faced with and we will conquer.

## 2. What inspired you to write this book?

This is an empathy project. It is from the author's heart, to the hearts of the readers. The subject theme is quite sensitive and not understood by many, and all those who have gone through anxieties, panic attacks, depression, etc., would better comprehend the extent to which matters of mental health can go. I was not at my best when I penned this book, but one understood that whatever was happening at that point in time, was a phase that would pass. In addition, even at my lowest, I held on to the hope that could not be touched or seen, but knew that faith would lead me to victory, in the form of healing. Hence, the book itself is a prayer and seeks to restore hope.

## 3. What are the highlights of this book?

As much as it is all about mental health and its woes, the focus is more on a prolonged state of sadness, depression. With the content, there is a lot of personification in which there are dialogues in a poem, wherein depression itself knocks and asks to settle in someone's life, and the reception of the person is not so friendly, and depression enforces its way in nonetheless, and vows to leave if the person cooperates, or stay if they become difficult.

In essence, this is to say depression does not need permission to settle in a person's life, but if you deal with it as it sets in, you will be an inspiration to others that it is doable. However, if you do not come out and talk about it, it instead deals with you, and adds to the suicide stats.

### 4. What hope does the book give to the reader?

A simple and straightforward answer is that whoever finds themselves going through something not so pleasant, must find ways to let it out and get help as soon as it is doable. In addition, help in this regard may not always be professional, and therefore the people around us, our loved ones, should be able to cater for and make it easy and safe for us to get help. They should not make us feel like outcasts or out of the normal. My hope is that whoever gets to read a piece of this book, never considers suicide. They must know that whatever it is they think they cannot beat, they actually can and with or without a support system, the battle is theirs and they must find reasons to never give up.

### 5. Kindly share with us the peer review feedback.

*Some reviews received from the reading of the book are demonstrated below:*

"I believe that every soul that reads it will mirror and get clarity, for some souls are broken but unaware. Your book is easy to understand and reflect through".

*"It's a very relatable read. For someone who has been on this mental health journey, I relive so many events that I have passed through. It has reminded me that I have not crossed the river that was drowning me yet. There are some spaces that are still filled with so much unresolved emotions and all I did was crown them with flowers on top. Each day I read a piece the flowers wilt; it is a reminder that I have not completely been honest with myself. I have actually kept busy to avoid thinking about everything."*

### 6. Who are your target audience for this book?

*Typically, this would be for people going through depression and the likes thereof. However, even those who have not gone through anything intense will get to have a taste of what this disease brings to our society. Moreover, maybe we will have a shame free community and a safe space for those affected directly to go through their journeys without being judged and prejudiced, and looked down on as attention seekers. For those who are still suffering, they will remember there is hope that everything works for the good. Those who have no hope at all will see that in fact it is doable. Those who have healed, are often triggered and thus this reminds them that healing has no formula and our journeys are not the same.*

### How can our readers access the book?

The book is available on online book platforms. You can still get a signed copy directly from the author.

**Twitter:** @RaphalaMahuna

**Instagram:** Raphala\_mahuna

**Facebook:** Raphala mahuna Lekhosi

**Contacts/WhatsApp:** 082 760 3194 / 065 841 8978

# Introducing ENACTUS SMU

## ENACTUS Team

Front row left to right. Karabo Matolo (**Recruitment Officer**), Kwanele Makubalo (**President**), Hlompo Raseala (**Media and Marketing Officer**)  
Back row left to right Reitumetse Letlape (**Vice - President**), Mahuna Raphala (**Secretary-General**), Thato Phasha (**Projects Manager**), Zinkie Tseka (**Deputy Secretary-General**).

**E**nactus SMU Team led by President Kwanele Makubalo and the faculty advisors, Prof Joshua Olowoyo and Dr Liziwe Mugivhisa, is a team of students and academic leaders who are committed to using the power of entrepreneurial action to transform and create a better sustainable world. It is a recognised social structure, as a sub-structure registered under the Student Representative Council (SRC).



## 1. What is ENACTUS?

Enactus is the largest experiential learning platform dedicated to creating a better world while developing the next generation of entrepreneurial leaders and social innovators. The organization also provides a platform for NextGen Leaders to develop leadership skills while working with leading companies worldwide. Enactus uses

Social Enterprise to challenge all the socio-economic problems while thriving to achieve seventeen global sustainable development goals.

The Enactus SMU team calls for Social Entrepreneurs and Innovators to join the team as it rebuilds itself to impact the lives of our community by collaborating with them on innovative entrepreneurial projects. These projects are steered towards creating social and economic success and independence as well as a positive long-term impact on the environment and prosperity.

### 2. What does ENACTUS want to achieve?

To create a culture of entrepreneurship among students. Ensure that students become the change they need. Take SMU's brand beyond its

beauty. Help develop the community of SMU, Ga-Rankuwa, and the society, with skills development and sustainable entrepreneurial projects.

### ENACTUS mission statement

At ENACTUS SMU, we take pride in improving the lives of individuals in our communities by collaborating with them on innovative entrepreneurial projects. These projects are steered towards creating social and economic success and independence as well as positive, long-term impact on the environment and prosperity.

## Up Close and Personal With Tebogo Cosby Selema



**B**achelor of Science student Tebogo Cosby Selema recently had a cameo role in one of South Africa's popular soapies/telenovela, Skeem Saam, as a Lab Doctor. Dintshang Student Newspaper had a chat with Tebogo regarding his acting career.

### 1. Can you introduce yourself to our readers?

I am Tebogo Cosby Selema from a village called Sekgosese in Limpopo. I went to Primary School in Tembisa but later went back to Sekgosese for my Secondary School. Currently I am a student here at Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University.

### 2. When did you decide that you want to become an actor?

It was in the year 2017 when I developed this love and desire for television, but unfortunately, at the time I had no information at all on how one can actually get there, so at some point I even forgot about that dream, until it resurfaced in 2020.

### 3. How did you become interested in entertaining people?

Though entertaining people is indeed a difficult task, but I think what makes it easy for me is the fact that I am very flexible and have

always been an entertainer. I am the type of a person that can literally do anything. when given the platform, be it singing, dancing, etc. and at some point I even did stand-up comedy and was part of the semi-finalists on the SMU Explosive talent competition in 2019.

### 4. What do you like most about acting?

Besides working and interacting with people that I grew up watching on TV, one thing I like most about acting is that I get to take a scripted character and bring it to life, and by so doing, I am able to portray a certain type of a message which I hope that one day when someone looks at me, they can be like "I want to be that kind of a person".

### 5. Of all the roles you played, which one do you like the most?

So far, I have only played the role of a Lab Doctor on Skeem Saam, and also a garden boy who had an affair with his boss's wife on a YouTube drama series, and if I were to choose which one I liked the most, I would say "the garden boy" because there is a lot of humour involved in it and I also got to work with some comedians. Being a funny person in nature, I really loved playing that role.

## 6. Did you take up any training in acting?

I did not get any professional training for acting, the only thing I did after registering with an agency was to attend a few acting workshops so that I could get some insight into the industry itself, and also know what is expected of me as an actor. After that, a brief came from Skeem Saam saying they want this type of a person, and I saw the script, auditioned and four days later they called me saying I got the role.

## 7. How do you balance your studies and acting?

Well, not only am I a student and an actor, but I am also a preacher, a Grade 12 tutor and have a social life as well! So balancing all of this requires a lot of discipline and consistency. However, sometimes I do feel overwhelmed but what keeps me committed to my schedule is the fact that I know what to do and when to do it. That on its own has helped me to attain better results in all aspects of my life, without letting one aspect suffer.

## 8. How do you feel when your fans become captivated through your characters?

I remember the first time ever I was on set shooting for Skeem Saam, after the second scene that we shot, a prominent and established actor called me and complimented me for my acting, and after that the whole cast and crew that was there started applauding. It was at that moment where I thought to myself.

*"If such a man was able to recognize my talent, then I want to keep on doing this with the hope of impacting someone's life through acting".*

Therefore, the feeling that comes because of people finding interest in what I do is always amazing and encouraging at the same time, pushing me to do better.

## 9. Tell us about your upcoming shows and how you are staying on top of the game?

Recently, I have not been doing any auditioning at all, because I do not want to commit myself to many things, which at the end might be too much for me to handle, and as a result, I end up suffering academically. For now, I am content with just one role on Skeem Saam and currently I am working on developing myself into becoming that character and finding ways to better portray him for his come back on the show.

## 10. As an actor, where do you see your career in 5 years?

One thing I would really love to achieve within this 5-year period is to do some studying related to film and entertainment because as much as I love being in front of the camera, I also want to grow and explore other fields in the industry, such as directing and probably one day produce my own shows, because I am really good with writing and storytelling.



*Jabulani Nukeri, was recently elected to serve in the South African Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (SAPSF) National Executive Committee (NEC). Dintshang Student Newspaper caught up with him to get insight on his role as the Student Exchange Officer of SAPSF NEC.*

### 1. Kindly outline your newly acquired role in the National Executive Committee of SAPSF.

*As the newly elected Student Exchange Officer of SAPSF NEC, I serve as the first delegate of SAPSF at the International Pharmaceutical Students Federation conference. My role in the conference is to improve the image of SAPSF and the Student Exchange Program, amongst other responsibilities.*

### 2. What are your plans for the SAPSF role?

*I have much interest in pursuing the agenda for Internship and Community Service Placements, with an ultimate goal of playing an impactful role in shaping a well-coordinated pharmacy profession.*

### 3. How will you make sure that you leave a lasting legacy on your SAPSF role?

*The Student Exchange Program allows students from various countries to host or/and visit countries of their choice for benchmarking purposes, as well as learning about Pharmacy in different countries. I therefore will establish relationships with associations from other countries to ensure SA attracts the interest of international students for the student exchange program.*

**Pharmacy Student  
Elected To Serve in SAPSF NEC**

**4. How will your role in SAPSF positively affect SMUAPS and SMU School of Pharmacy?**

*In carrying out my constitutional mandate, SMUAPS and SMU the School of Pharmacy will be best positioned worldwide as I will, from time to time, be a contact person for coordinating trips of students into and out of the country.*

**5. Which resolutions were taken to address the issues that affect the pharmacy profession during the recently held SAPSF conference?**

*We have identified Internship and Community Service Placements as a crisis facing our graduates, which become a threat to the growth of the profession. The Presidential Committee is developing a step-wise approach on how best to reach out to the National Department of Health for their intervention in ending this crisis.*

**6. Which projects are earmarked to change the landscape of the pharmacy profession?**

*I for one believe in benchmarking as one of the best mechanisms that allows for improvement, and through the Student Exchange Program with other countries we can develop more sustainable opportunities for the future generation of pharmacists.*

**7. In conclusion, what is your message to our readers?**

*The SAPSF NEC would appreciate the support of all Pharmacy students in our attempt to take the profession to greater heights. We also hope to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with The South African Pharmacy Council to work with them in developing the profession.*



**Newly elected Secretary General of South African Pharmaceutical Students Federation (SAPSF) Setty Kekana promises to serve students to the best of her abilities**

Setty Kekana has been elected to serve as Secretary General of the South African Pharmaceutical Students Federation. Her major responsibility is to ensure that there is efficient and effective administration and communication amongst the Presidential Committee members. The role she occupies also services branches, therefore she has to ensure that communication with the various branches is in order and that these branches are functional.

*“I view this is a very demanding position because the Office of the Secretary General has to ensure that the organization is functional, meetings are held, notifications are sent out on time, Agendas drawn and other logistical arrangements in terms of administration of the affairs of the organization. It is a responsibility that I do not take lightly and looking forward to fulfilling with diligence and to the best of my ability”, she said.*

Setty who is a Bachelor of Pharmacy student, says she was nominated by her SMU branch to fill this position and others gave their support which eventually culminated into her election. “I am grateful for the support shown by others and commit to serve them to the best of my ability. Those of us elected to serve in this structure should deliver as per the mandate given by students. Setty who is a Bachelor of Pharmacy student, says she was nominated by her SMU branch to fill this position and others gave their support which eventually culminated into her election.

*“I am grateful for the support shown by others and commit to serve them to the best of my ability. Those of us elected to serve in this structure should deliver as per the mandate given by students. Ours should be to implement the decisions that are taken by all the bodies. The interests of SMU students should find expression, however, the responsibilities are about serving the entire organization and ensure that it functions to the benefit of all. Because we are students from different Universities in the country, we are dealing with common but also unique situations across institutions. We therefore need to pay attention to that and ensure that we serve and change the lives of Pharmacy students”, she continued.*

The Secretary General says she brings a wealth of experience to the position as she previously served in the position of Secretary General of the Sefako Makgatho University Association of Students and currently its Chairperson. *“I am however vacating the position of Chairperson soon. I have gained a lot of experience and skills while occupying the two positions and this will enable me to execute my responsibilities. I understand the importance of communication and holding organizations together so that they function efficiently”, explains Setty.* Her hope is that their office achieves all mandatory obligations during their 1-year term to ensure that the Profession of Pharmacy is known for its greater good across the board.



**D**intshang spoke to Nqobile Makhaza, a Masters candidate in Public Health Pharmacy and Management following her election to the SAPSF

### 1. Please tell us which position you have been elected for and expand on the role and responsibilities.

I have been elected as the Public Health Initiative Officer of the South African Pharmaceutical Student' Federation (SAPSF).

My responsibilities, inter alia, include coordinating SAPSF projects/initiatives and ensuring that they are implemented with the highest level of integrity. My role is also to build/maintain healthy relationships with the relevant stakeholders, especially those we have/are yet to collaborate with in our respective projects/initiatives.

### 2. How did your nomination come about?

The Pharmacy student populace is familiar with various leadership roles I have played during my undergraduate years, as well as other initiatives I have been a part of outside of the school in representing the Pharmacy profession. Fellow Pharmacy students felt that I should be supported for the position perhaps because of being enthusiastic and empathetic when it comes to issues concerning Pharmacy students amongst other things. I also believe that being sent as part of a delegation that represented both SAPSF and the School of Pharmacy at the 9th African Pharmaceutical Symposium that was hosted by the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation also played a significant role in this regard. I am also driven by the principles of Ubuntu in what I do

### 3. How would you use the position to advance the agenda of Pharmacy students at SMU and across the country?

Having completed my undergraduate studies and being a public health advocate, I am very well aware of the challenges that students are faced with especially in the era of the Covid-19 pandemic, in the same breath I have identified various opportunities that pharmacy students can take advantage of. This position allows me to use my experience and knowledge to skillfully converge Pharmacy students across the country and expose them to life-changing platforms. I will also ensure that I play my part in mitigating the everyday challenges that pose as barriers to students' academic progress.

### 4. What skills are you bringing into the role?

Some of the skills I'm bringing to the table include exceptional leadership skills, project coordination skills, liaison skills, and a couple of technical skills. Students should look out for great SAPSF initiatives coming up specially tailored for them, information about all things SAPSF can be found on our social media pages @SAPSF.

**S**MU students continue to be elected into positions of responsibility by bodies across the country. Marvel Hlungwani is now the Secretary General of the Student Chapter of the Black Management Forum. He previously served as the branch Chairperson of the BMF at SMU before being elevated to the position of Gauteng provincial Secretary of the same body. Hlungwani was elected unopposed to the new position. Dintshang caught up with him following his election.



### 1. How do you feel about your election as Secretary General of the BMF student chapter?

It's an exciting journey and we are happy to be given the opportunity to lead the forum's student chapter across the whole country. It is an opportunity to serve, an opportunity for personal development and an opportunity to impact change in the process to develop black managerial leadership in South Africa.

### 2. Was it a contested position and what went into securing it?

The position of Secretary General was one of the uncontested positions. I reached threshold with the highest number of delegates from the majority of the provinces in the conference and therefore won the conference uncontested. A lot of lobbying and praying went into securing this position but above everything, the membership of the student chapter believed I have the necessary capacity to serve as the General Secretary and had confidence in me to lead the Student Chapter to the right direction.

### 3. What do your responsibilities entail?

The BMF Student Chapter Induction is clear and states the responsibilities as follows; Take, file, distribute minutes of the NEC; Chairperson and head of the Constitutional Committee of the Student Chapter; Chairperson of the entrepreneurship development unit; Together with the National Administrator, maintain the database of the Student Chapter; Member of the National Disciplinary Committee. Above everything, my responsibility as a member of the National Student Chapter Committee is to uphold and enhance the highest relevant professional standards and principles in student leadership in the best interests of the Student Chapter and its membership in South Africa.

### 4. Tell us more about the Black Management Forum student chapter?

The BMF Student Chapter stands for the development and empowerment of student leadership primarily among black students at tertiary institutions, and the creation of leadership structures and processes, which will enhance the abilities, and capabilities of students on entering the labour market or corporate world. The objectives of the BMF Student Chapter are to prepare and equip students at Institutions of Higher Learning with managerial, leadership and business skills, which will prepare them to effectively and productively respond to the challenges of the corporate world, labour market and society at large. The fundamental philosophical believe of the BMF student chapter is that before we are students, we are members of our immediate communities first.

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# COVID-19 Task Team

**T**he Task Team has been quiet for over seven weeks now and this was a reflection of the negative COVID-19 results we have had for all that time. It is our hope that during that time individuals have taken the time out to go get vaccinated. If you have not had your first J&J or Pfizer shot, you need one and the vaccination centre at the basement of the Clinical pathology building is waiting to serve you. Those of us who have been part of the Sisonke 1 vaccination period need to get their booster shots before the 17th December 2021. Sisonke 2 ends on that day. If for one reason or another you have not received your booster shot by this date your eligibility for a booster shot will be decided by the government roll-out if it will happen. The reason behind the booster shots is that even before the immunity of those vaccinated wanes, they should be boosted so that should the fourth wave be upon us, health workers should not experience severe disease or death. Remember, it does not prevent infection. We have been traumatized enough by the first and second waves to imagine the levels of deaths and loss of life we experienced. Got get vaccinated for your own sake.

Positive cases have surfaced again in SMU. We have a local/cluster outbreak. Over the past two weeks we have now had over fifty people testing positive for the virus. Such a jump is way beyond the normal after two months of negative tests. That qualifies us for an outbreak. We therefore need to take drastic steps to stem the tide. Seeing that this disease is self-limiting if managed correctly, we ask that we put ourselves AGAIN on level 4 lockdown and stop it dead in its tracks. That is what isolation does- ten days of lockdown and you are fine if you survive it. We wish to emphasize that because we do not know how individuals will respond, we opt to take a conservative view of the outcome. If not you, you may pass it on to someone who may not be as lucky as you are. A public health response to this outbreak is to take strict and inconvenient measures to stop the spread of the infection and protect oneself and our patients.

Restricted movements are the number one mode of prevention. This will prevent those who are infected mixing with the uninfected; those that are uninfected going into spaces where they will expose themselves to infection; this includes maintaining social distancing.

Masking up is the other critical leg which is used in healthcare setting where health workers are exposed to infected persons without fear of infection. It is still surprising to see people ignoring the use of masks as an inconvenience. We call on all in SMU to adhere strictly to the use of masks. Keep clean hands and do not touch your face with possibly contaminated hands. Let us go back to basics.

The Task Team is calling on a ten-day strict adherence interval in order to #KickCovidOutOfSMU. Together we can do this. We will review the infection rates next Friday to determine any changes. At this stage the situation is dire and requires your cooperation. We wish to share some figure just to make the point. In the past two weeks we conducted approximately 120 tests for which we have results. 70 of these tested positive and have been to isolation facilities at various times.

South Point residence is the nidus of the infection and this means that as a community that interacts at various platforms and spaces, each one of us is possibly exposed. It cannot be that 1 out of 2 students are positive who have tested and we think that we can miss it whereas we do not know who is asymptomatic.

This suggests that there will be adjustments in various ways the university does business at this point. We call upon all students and staff to hold hands and work towards overcoming this outbreak. It cannot be done by someone else other than each one of us pulling their own weight. Let's do this.

1. All positive cases will be taken to Bronkhorstspuit hospital for isolation. This supports the theory that we limit the spread of infection to non-infected individuals.

It is sad to note that the recent SRC elections are fingered as a potential super spreader event that precipitated these infections. This follows closely on the heels of the last protest action that resulted in closure of the gates.

Staff and students are encouraged to report their positive status if known to covid19@smu.ac.za or WhatsApp 083 371 4690 or call 012 521 5714/5735 during working hours.

Reporting a positive COVID-19 status is important and should be done promptly. It is however not an emergency. If you receive your results after hours, send the email or WhatsApp. Follow up with a call in the morning and arrangements can be made for you to be taken to isolation. Over the weekend, contact the SMU EMS line on 0794179546 or inform Campus control for support.

Remember to complete the SMU COVID-19 App daily. This helps to keep us on our toes all the time. We cannot relax. We have overcome in the past, we can do it again. Your support and cooperation is appreciated.

**#ShowSomeLove #SMUMask #NeverAgainInSMU  
#ItsAWayOfLife #WeAreSMU #GetYourJob**  
Let us keep up the responsible behaviour and  
**#KickCOVIDoutofSMU**

# Generous Buddies Foundation wins NYDA Competition



**G**enerous Buddies Foundation (GBF) won R18 000 during the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) service challenge competition. GBF is a non-profit organization (NPO) registered with the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC). It consists of eight students from Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU). It was established in 2019 as a tool to eradicate hunger entirely within our on- and off-campus residences, as some students are from previously disadvantaged homes and lack funding. **Dintshang Student Newspaper** spoke to the Executive Committee members of the GBF to know more about the Foundation.

## 1. What persuaded you to participate in the National Youth Service challenge?

To increase the number of students we can help with food, toiletries using funds acquired from the youth service challenge. With the challenges that Covid-19 pandemic brought upon us, such as being unable to conduct door-to-door donations through which we gathered most of our funding, our capacity to help students who are in need of help was limited because we didn't have enough funds to assist them. Participating in the youth service challenge would help us to assist the students even during the Covid-19 pandemic.

## How did you engage the 100 young people in the community?

There was no direct engagement with the students due to confidentiality reasons, however we communicated with the social worker from SMU who directly engages with the students. The same was with the Bokamoso Care Centre in Ga-Rankuwa; we communicated with the manager of the orphanage in relation to clothes donation we wanted to offer to the centre. We searched for an orphanage around our community that needed assistance with clothes.

## 2. What are your plans for the R18 000-prize money?

\* To increase our capacity of helping students who are in need. Engage and help more with community services such as assisting orphanage centres.

\* Collaborate with other organizations to assist them with funding that will help them grow, in the long run improving our own organization with skills.

\* To use the prize money to participate in activities that will generate more money for future use, activities such as fundraising events.

\* To attend to team building activities and help strengthen the organizational dynamics.

## 3. What made you to win the prize money?

We helped students from underprivileged backgrounds with food and toiletries. As students, we sacrificed our time from our schedules to run door-to-door donations and involved in certain activities to help raise funds to help students in need.

## 4. Which initiatives did you develop that involve young people in activities that benefit their communities?

We developed an activity of involving students in the door-to-door donations that in return helped students that are underprivileged. These donations did not only help students, they also assisted the Bokamoso Care Centre.

## 5. What do your partnership with NYDA entail?

Our partnership with NYDA is to create solid platforms for young people to serve and participate in the democratic processes of our country by improving and building the capacity of young leaders.

### *The GBF Executive Committee members are:*

- Mongoai Nthabiseng Johanna – (Chairperson)
- Matlanato Jan Matsobane - (Vice Chairperson)
- Netshandama Thifhidzi - (Secretary)
- Mudau Masindi- (Deputy Secretary)
- Mannzhi Emmanuel- (Treasurer)
- Maimela Kgothatso- (Deputy Treasurer)
- Manamela Tshhegofatso Makwena – (Event and Social Media Coordinator)
- Skosana Sibusiso Doctor- (Public Relations Officer)

### *Contact Persons:*

Mongoai Nthabiseng (Chairperson): 071 417 5095  
Netshandama Thifhidzi (Secretary): 060 918 8814

**GBF Email Address:** genbuddies101@gmail.com.

## Golden Key SMU Women Empowerment - Fierce, Brave & Strong

The Golden Key SMU Society hosted one of their very first Women Empowerment events, which was themed “Fierce, Brave and Strong”. The Society was happy to have shared this milestone with everyone who attended, both physically and virtually. On the virtual platforms Golden Key hosted students from other Golden Key sister chapters such as the Universities of Pretoria, Western Cape, North West and other chapters. The purpose of the event was to expose female students to powerful renowned women who are pioneers in their own spaces.

The Golden Key SMU Society identified four fierce, brave and strong women to share their personal journeys, their experiences as women in influential spaces and how one can tackle challenges faced by women in political, professional and leadership spaces. The hosts of the day were Thendo Tshingowe and Kamogelo Mukhari who are part of the Golden Key SMU executive committee. The speakers that the Golden Key Society hosted were Sipehele Lunga, Jennifer Tshilambwana, Dr Nomthandazo Dube and Konehali Gugushe.

The first speaker of the day was Sipehele Lunga who is a fourth-year medical student and the founder and organiser of the purple drive campaign at SMU. She holds a BSc degree in Human Molecular Biology and a BSc degree Medical Honours in Haematological Pathology. She is a two-time radio presenter nominee at the liberty radio awards, and is a voice over artist; some of you may be familiar with her voice on SMU FM. She is also the founder of an NPO called Asisizaneni Campaign. She spoke largely on the importance of women not limiting themselves and soaring to great heights.

The second speaker was Rendani Jennifer Tshilambwana, an academic pharmacist intern and part-time junior lecturer at the School of Pharmacy at SMU. She is also currently an MPharm candidate and a business owner of a fast-growing brand called ‘bundles of jenn’. Rendani is a woman who is no stranger to leadership and shared her experiences as a student leader, businesswoman, postgraduate student and her passion for her profession. She encouraged the young females to keep on exploring all available opportunities, as one never knows where it might take them.

The third speaker was Dr Nomthandazo Dube, who is a specialist neurosurgeon who is currently working as the only female neurosurgeon at the Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital, providing neurosurgical services, including spinal and brain operations in the public sector to patients from Gauteng, Limpopo and the North West Province. She holds a BSc degree in chemistry and biochemistry (MEDUNSA), an MBChB (UL) and an FC Neurosurgery degree from the Colleges of Medicine South Africa. Dr Dube is passionate about education and currently runs a mentorship program for aspiring medical students. The doctor spoke largely on the challenges she faced as the only specialist neurosurgeon in many spaces and the importance of young people entering spaces that are deemed as male dominated. Her message resonated well with the young women who formed part of the event.

The last speaker, Konehali Gugushe, is a Chief Executive Officer of the Nelson Mandela Children’s Fund. By profession, Konehali is a qualified Chartered Accountant (CA) and holds a Bachelor’s Degree from Rhodes University, a certificate in the Theory and Practice of Auditing from the University of KZN and a Post-graduate Diploma in Accounting from University of Cape Town. She has over 20 years’ experience in development finance and the financial services sectors. The focus of her talk was her role as an active participant in shaping a better future for generations to come, and contributing towards social cohesion and community development. She encouraged students to seek out spaces for them to lead and armed them with practical ways to lead successfully. Like all the other speakers, Konehali shared her personal and professional journey.

Students who were in physical attendance were satisfied and inspired, and at the end of the event the feedback was positive as the women gathered to take pictures with the guests and enquire on possible mentorship opportunities. There was huge engagement on social media after the event from Golden Key Society members from other chapters who attended virtually; some messages were to give thanks for the event and others were general comments on the impact of the event on the individuals. The students in attendance gained a lot of insight about the type of challenges women face in professional spaces, how to overcome them and the importance of supporting each other as women. The event was a huge success and the Committee hopes that it ignited a spark in all females who joined them. The Committee was proud to have hosted an event of this calibre that created a platform for women to engage and draw strength from each other’s journey. Golden Key SMU hopes to host events of this nature in the future that are centred on matters/ issues that affect both male and female students.

# SMU House Committee Induction 2021

SMU Student Housing recently conducted an induction for the newly elected House Committee members. The objective of the induction is to explain what it means to be a house committee member, overview of what student housing is all about, functions and duties of house committee members. Subsequently, students are collaborators in the creation of meaningful living and learning communities to enhance lived experiences and success.

Various speakers shared their experiences and wisdom ranging from reflections on support provided by the SRC, student leadership in residences, ethical leadership, student governance protocols and code of conduct, residence life and mentorship, as well as strategies for preparing residence activities.

## Presenters included

Mr K. Malebana (SRC Residence Officer 2020/21)

Mr T. Masekoa (SRC President 2020/21)

Dr IP Mohasoa (ED: Student Affairs and Residences)

Ms L. Rampa (HOD: Residences)

Mr T. Khumalo (Deputy Director: Diversity, Student Life and Development)

Mr J. Magedi (Advisor to the Vice Chancellor, Tshwane University of Technology)

and Dr Khumalo (Durban University of Technology)

