

Meet the Southern African Rhodes Scholars-Elect, 2021

ZACHARY ABEL

(South African College School (SACS), Newlands, Scholar-Elect 2021)

Zac matriculated from SACS in 2015. He graduated with an Honours degree in Economics from the University of Cape Town in 2019. During his studies, he focused on the public sector, development economics, and statistics, researching the effects of municipal fiscal policy on inequality in South Africa in his Honours year. Since graduating, Zac has worked for a management consultancy, gaining experience in the healthcare, retail and insurance spaces, and working on pro-bono projects in public health and education. Zac is passionate about development in Africa, with interests in improving health outcomes on the continent, and the use of stimulus packages and fiscal policy to achieve development and environmental goals. Zac also volunteers for the National Sea Rescue Institute, where he is a trainee Coxswain in Cape Town. He intends to read an MPhil Economics at Oxford University.



AMY BOOTH (KZN Regional Finalist, SA-at-Large Scholar-Elect 2021)



After matriculating from Hillcrest High School (KZN), where she was the Dux Scholar, **Amy** commenced her studies in the Health Sciences Faculty at the University of Cape Town in 2013. Amy graduated *summa cum laude* with the gold medal for the top MBChB performance. She engages actively in research, having published several articles, winning multiple research awards, and completing a stint as a research intern at the World Health Organisation, Geneva. She served as President of the UCT Surgical Society for which she was awarded the UCT Vice-Chancellors Leadership Award, Kerry Capstick-Dale Leadership Award and the Klaus-Jurgen-Bathe Leadership Scholarship. She is passionate about outreach, founded, amongst others, the Health Aid for Refugee's Project and now serves as the youngest Trustee at her high school where she runs a scholarship programme for needy students. Amy is currently completing her internship at the King Edward Hospital in Durban. Amy intends to read for an MSc International Health & Tropical Medicine at Oxford University. Ultimately, she hopes to engage in health system policy and public health activism with the intention of improving the health system of South Africa. In her spare time, she is an avid runner and enjoys painting and playing the piano.



Meet our Rhodes Scholars-Elect, 2021

BUNTU FANTESO (Eastern Cape Regional Finalist, SA-at-Large Scholar-Elect, 2021)

Buntu grew up in the rural Eastern Cape, where he attended Zwelibangile Senior Secondary School. He completed a BSc in Environmental Studies at the Walter Sisulu University in 2017. In 2018, he enrolled for a BSc Honours in Geography at the University of Johannesburg, where he is completing an MSc in Environmental Management. His research interest is on investigating emerging pollutants in freshwater ecosystems and unlocking alternative sources of water to alleviate water scarcity. Buntu holds a Green-Matter Fellowship and is an Enactus alum. He is involved in an Enactus programme that trains TVET College students in entrepreneurship in an effort to fight youth unemployment. Buntu is part of the Executive Committee for Young Water Professionals in Gauteng and one of the founding members of Basisani Mkhuhlu, a community project that addresses illegal dumping in Mpumalanga. Buntu intends to read for a DPhil Geography & Environment at Oxford University.



JEMMA HOUGHTON

(St Andrew's College, Makhanda (Grahamstown), Scholar-Elect, 2021)



Jemma attended Diocesan School for Girls in Makhanda and was awarded the St Andrew's College & DSG Rhodes Scholarship for 2021. A University of the Western Cape graduate, Jemma achieved a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Physiotherapy (Summa Cum Laude) in December 2019. Jemma is currently completing her Community Service at Butterworth Hospital, a rural hospital in the Eastern Cape. Her experience in rural healthcare, where the COVID pandemic has amplified all the inequalities and flaws in the South African health system, and society in general, has been transformative for her. *"Daily, I am exposed to brutal inequality, suffering, and illness. But, I have and continue to experience incredible inter-disciplinary teamwork, innovation and Ubuntu,"* said Jemma. A gifted dancer, Jemma is tenacious and resilient. She intends to read for two Masters degrees at Oxford, the first an MSc International Health and Tropical Medicine and then an MSc (Res) Musculoskeletal Sciences.

TINASHE NGWENYA (BLMNS (Botswana) Scholar-Elect, 2021)

Tinashe hails from Gaborone (Botswana) and completed his schooling at Ledumang Senior Secondary School. Tinashe was awarded a Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering (First Class) from the University of Botswana, in October 2020. He was a Residence Assistant, Vice President University of Botswana Engineering Students' Society, member of the university's Debate Masters Association, and a health promotion assistant during his time at university. In addition, Tinashe was involved in the design, development and manufacture of a prototype electric car in 2019. In his spare time, Tinashe mentors high school students from Ledumang Secondary School in Gaborone and started a top achievers club there to assist students to improve their grades. Tinashe intends to read for a DPhil Engineering Science and undertake research in Future Propulsion and Power at Oxford University. Amongst his many interests, Tinashe enjoys writing and reciting poetry; playing soccer; and is a keen chess player.





Meet our Rhodes Scholars-Elect, 2021

AMY PATERSON (KwaZulu-Natal Rhodes Scholar-Elect, 2021)



Amy grew up in the KwaZulu Natal Midlands and attended Treverton College, where she was the Dux Scholar in 2012. She enrolled in the Health Sciences Faculty at the University of Cape Town in 2013, graduating with first class honours and the Class Medal for the Best Overall Performance in Medicine in 2018. Amy dedicated herself to UCT's community health-focused SHAWCO clinics throughout her student years and led the Friends of Médecins Sans Frontières society for two years. In 2017 she climbed Kilimanjaro in a student initiative to raise funds for dialysis machines. Amy returned to KwaZulu-Natal in 2019 to undertake two years of internship at Durban's Addington Hospital. Her current research looks at surgical outcomes for women in Africa. She hopes to use the Rhodes Scholarship to expand this work and advocate for improved women's and child health. In her free time, Amy can be found exploring the outdoors and worlds of literature, art and music. Amy intends to read for a DPhil Surgical Sciences at Oxford University

REANTHA PILLAY

(KwaZulu-Natal Regional Finalist, SA-at-Large Scholar-Elect, 2021)

Reantha is a medical doctor completing community service in rural Mpumalanga. She graduated with an MBChB cum laude from the University of Pretoria, achieving the L J te Groen Medal for the best Achievement in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Reantha was a founding member of Friends of Médecins Sans Frontières at her university and nationally. She is a former South African representative for public speaking and debating and served as a provincial coach and national selector. She is an advocate for her patients and is committed to providing evidenced based care with dignity. Reantha is passionate about the upstream determinants of Child Health and the public health interventions that are necessary to address them. A former Head Girl of Maris Stella School (Durban), Reantha enjoyed Classical Ballet, playing the Cello, public speaking and tutoring her peers at high school. She will be reading towards an MSc in International Health and Tropical Medicine at Oxford University.



MAXINE SMIT

(Paul Roos Gymnasium, Stellenbosch, Scholar-Elect, 2021)



An alumnus of Bloemhof Girls' School in Stellenbosch, **Maxine** graduated Cum Laude and earned the Chancellor's Medal for the best overall graduating MBChB student at Stellenbosch University before the completion of her internship as medical doctor in Cape Town. She views perfection and excellence as an unobtainable, constantly evolving end-goal that serves as motivation to continuously improve upon herself. She believes that talent is overrated and effort is everything. She seeks challenges and finds comfort in temporary discomfort as this promotes future growth. Maxine is passionate about preventative medicine, health and fitness promotion and holistic patient-centred care. In her free-time she has an active lifestyle and is an aspiring professional Crossfit athlete with an interest in orthopaedic surgery. Maxine intends reading towards an MSc Musculoskeletal Sciences and thereafter an MBA.



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DANIEL TATE

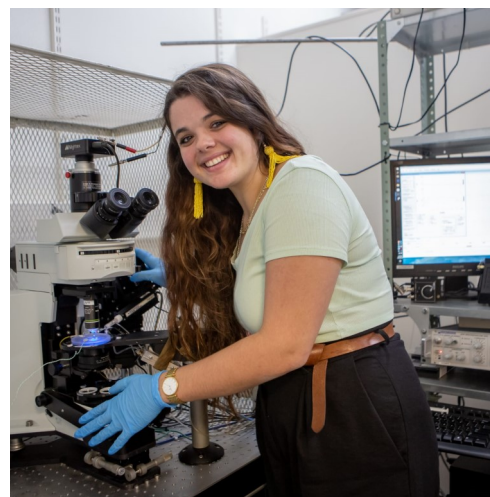
(Diocesan College, Rondebosch, Scholar-Elect 2021)



Daniel attended Diocesan College (Bishops) in Cape Town, where he was the Dux Scholar in 2016; his extracurricular involvements at the time included grade 8-level drum kit, first-team hockey and a number of community service initiatives including serving on the Junior City Council of Cape Town. He is currently completing an Honours degree in International Relations, at the University of Cape Town. Previously, he graduated top in his undergraduate degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE), at the same institution. He has, concurrently with his studies, served extensively in the university's student leadership, ultimately sitting on its Students' Representative Council, and has received multiple awards for his work in these roles. As a Candidate Fellow at the Allan Gray Orbis Foundation, he is passionate about the role of entrepreneurship in alleviating poverty and inequality, and used his leadership roles to forge the university's largest student entrepreneurship competition, "The Pitch", which is currently sponsored by the Vice-Chancellor. At Oxford, Daniel intends to read for an MPhil in International Relations, in pursuit of further investigating the role of intergovernmental organisations in peacekeeping on the African continent.

SASHA TINELLI (Western Cape Regional Finalist, SA-at-Large Scholar-Elect, 2021)

Sasha matriculated at Somerset College before enrolling at the University of Cape Town (UCT). Sasha is a Potter Fellow completing her Master of Medical Sciences degree in Neuroscience in the Raimondo Lab at UCT, where she previously completed her Bachelor of Sciences degree and her Honours degree in Neuroscience. Her Masters work explores the role of inflammation in the development of seizures by optimising a multifaceted model of neuroinflammation for use in her lab. Sasha intends to expand her neuroscience training by pursuing a DPhil in Neuroscience at Oxford University. She hopes to increase public awareness around neuroscience through thoughtful science translation initiatives, both globally and in her home country, South Africa. Sasha is a compassionate and adventurous woman who loves cooking for friends and family, hiking and painting when she is not in the lab.



We are very proud of the Scholars-Elect of 2021: the first cohort of Rhodes Scholars in Southern Africa to be selected virtually. We wish them every future success and happiness at Oxford University.