



OUR VOICES

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THE RISE SCHOLARSHIP SUMMIT AND PROJECTS

ARTICLE WRITTEN BY:
LEAH MTINDYA



LEAH MTINDYA ATTENDING A RISE SUMMIT IN SOUTH AFRICA

As a Rise Global winner, I have access to numerous opportunities such as career development, mentorship, scholarships, summits, and more. Mostly, I interacted with the Rise team online, but this time, they organized a residential conference in South Africa. I was enthusiastic about traveling abroad but mostly meeting with other winners during this extraordinary opportunity. It was my first time on a plane, and the whole experience was so fascinating. I was anxious at the airport, but everything happened so fast and smoothly. Upon arrival, the fantastic Rise team welcomed me warmly, and I felt at home. On the 19th of July, the summit commenced with speeches from the Rise board. Two lessons stood out for me, one by Eric Braver, CEO of Schmidt Futures, who cleared all the questions about being a Rise scholar, and another by Dr. Elizabeth Kiss, the CEO of Rhodes Trust. Hearing from the initiators of Rise was so insightful and mind-opening.

On the second day, we learned about South African history, presented by guest speakers from around the country. Then we had a visit to Robin Island, where Mandela was imprisoned. It was an honor to have met one of the ex-prisoners who now works on the island. He narrated prisoners' harsh treatment and how they would secretly communicate political tactics. Seeing Mandela's cell made me so emotional, not to mention the torturous life prisoners lived on the Island without visitation from family or friends. The whole scenario taught me how working together for change can make a huge difference. After that, we had Africa Matters, a Rise partner host session on the impact of the colonial matrix, focusing on the importance of understanding the history of the problem before starting to create a solution. We had another great activity at the University of Cape Town (UCT). I was amazed to see different experiments and projects developed in the lab to address the challenge of water in some parts of the city. I remember how the Ph.D. students harvested water from urine by removing urea, commonly known as fertilizer. The other project was on permeable pavements that

THE RISE SCHOLARSHIP CONTINUED

collect water from underground. After that, it's filtered and then used to flush toilets in one of the buildings on campus. In summary, it was about how valuable water is and should be preserved at all costs.

Additionally, we had online sessions on the world of science; the presenters were lecturers and scientists from around the globe. We were introduced to Systems Thinking, an eye-opening topic that allowed me to assess existing systems, including my project using the Iceberg Model. In the application for systems thinking, my friends and I had a chance to go deep into the topic of gender. We talked to people working in gender and running organizations in South Africa. It was such an informative survey. We also worked with the oldest township, Langa, where we explored different places and interacted with community members, one of them being single moms. Further, we worked with Langa Men's group, which aims to protect girls and women from any form of harassment, such as rape or GBV, and distribute pads and other items essential to ensure girls' protection in the community.

Interestingly, this group is run by men who are also trying to make men and boys aware of issues affecting females. They form such a robust support system for women. We also worked with Love Life, another organization that does similar work to Langa. The township was inspiring as they took issues into their own hands without waiting for the government. Both groups have contributed significantly to improved standards of living. By the way, I got a chance to record the Rise track with the help of Zolana and Emma, producers at Bridges, a studio in Langa. Being in the studio for the first time and working with famous artists in South Africa made me feel optimistic about music.

On the last day of the program, we had fun activities such as the NBA day, where we played and learned how sports contribute to solving world issues. We formed teams, designed sports projects to solve community problems, and interacted with famous players in basketball and rugby. I also explored other exciting games such as abseiling, hiking, penguin and paddling.

I'm short of words to describe this summit's impact fully. It was only for three weeks, but we did so many educative and fun activities. I'm grateful to the Rise team for arranging such an inspirational summit.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

ARTICLE WRITTEN BY:
EMMANUEL CHANDA



African Leadership Academy was a transformative experience. However, it was only as transformative and meaningful as the lessons learned, friendships and networks built and the memories brought by each day. Going to ALA made one massive difference in my life: I discovered who I was and what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. All this was possible because of the environment that expects you to take complete charge of your life. For example, there is no 'official' alarm to wake you up, and you have to ensure everything is in place. Besides, I would like to share two lessons and several pieces of advice I learned from my ALA experience that are now part of how I perceive and try to live my life today. Lesson number one: your ability and interest to learn and think independently are among the greatest assets you will ever have. Some call it school, and others call it education. Whatever you call it, always remember that it is not a place, a building, or a phase in your life. You must constantly learn skills, talents, habits, beliefs, academic material, etc. Nowadays, the structure of education has made it easy to take learning as a formality and not as something you do because it makes you grow as an individual.

ALA is close enough to this ideal of real learning. That is why I have spent the last two years trying to figure out the things that interest me and the impact I want to have on society. The goal was to start learning these things not only to graduate with good grades but, more importantly, to empower me with the skill set and data needed to solve problems I am optimistic about. Lesson number two: if you have not yet identified your passion and dream, an excellent place to start is by identifying at least one pressing problem or issue you are keen on addressing. The idea is to get you thinking about what you are willing to do for your community, country, and the globe. Begin with problems closer to you and spread out from there. ALA emphasizes the idea of looking for gaps in our communities and finding solutions. This line of thinking fostered an entrepreneurial spirit in me, and I became a problem solver. The environment, system, and the people I met there challenged me to develop a culture and mindset I fully believe in and try to uphold daily.

TELL MY STORY

My journey with KF started in 2013 after being selected for the Kucetekela Foundation scholarship. Upon selection, I was taken to Chalo Trust School, one of the prestigious secondary schools in Lusaka, to pursue my secondary school studies. Being at Chalo was a dream come true. Other than quality education, I had exposure to various extra curricular activities and opportunities that came along with being a KF Scholar. With this golden opportunity in my hands, I decided to give it my whole and excel in academics to make my family, sponsors, and community proud because they have always believed in me and have been so supportive. It was time to pursue tertiary education after completing grade 12 with flying colors. Getting to university was not easy.

I spent hours writing applications, mainly to the USA, but to no avail. Finally, with the help of KF, I managed to secure a hundred percent scholarship known as the Mandela Centennial Scholarship. In a few weeks, I was on the Rwandan campus doing a Bachelor's Degree in Global Challenges with a focus on Governance. As per tradition at African Leadership University, I was required to declare a mission while pursuing my studies. With the help of my mentors and lectures, I developed a mission in line with my passion for combating youth unemployment through entrepreneurship and youth empowerment programs. With this at the back of my head and the center of my heart, I co-founded a social enterprise business called Agriculture Growth Network.

Currently, the enterprise is focused on helping small and medium-scale farmers improve their productivity and gain easy access to the market to create employment opportunities for the youth majority. While in my first and second years, I participated in various entrepreneurship competitions both on African soil and in Europe.



*KELLYSON SIAMUNJO, 2022 AFRICAN LEADERSHIP
ACADEMY GRADUATE*

**ARTICLE WRITTEN BY:
KELLYSON SIAMUNJO**

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

We emerged victorious in Africa and top 20 globally. In addition, as the Christian Fellowship Chairman, I did some charity work with the Rotor Act Club of African Leadership University and served as Vice President and co-founder. Soon, it was time to bid farewell to the University experience and move on with life. I graduated this year, in 2022, in April, with an honors Degree in Global Challenges.

Currently, I am working on furthering my studies to a master's level. I received acceptance in Economic Policy and International development studies at two top UK universities: SOAS University of London and the University of Birmingham. As things stand, I am working on financial aid scholarships to fund my studies by the end of the year at any of the two universities. While waiting for the scholarships, I am volunteering at the Kucetekela farm as the project manager and working on my entrepreneurial venture, Agriculture Growth Network.

I am also dedicating part of my time at church as one of the pastors. Life after graduation is not easy and full of uncertainties; however, with determination, the future looks bright.



MY STORY TO GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



NELLY KALUKANGO, KF ALUMNI CLASS OF 2018

ARTICLE WRITTEN BY:
BY NELLY KALUKANGO

I remember my first day at Pestalozzi like it was yesterday. An excited, curious and highly motivated young girl about to be given an opportunity that to many, is only a dream. The following 5 years went by so quickly but the impact of the type of quality education that I received through the support of Kucetekela Foundation, is one that I am forever grateful for. Being a KF student means more than just acquiring a high school diploma. It is having the precious opportunity to have an environment that is intentional about developing all round students. That means character, talent, leadership and academic ability among other things. It is having people cheering you on and reminding you of how amazing you are and how much the world needs you. It means being led to, and reminded of your purpose. It means being given a dream, a beautiful bag of special opportunities that are priceless.

My name is Nelly Kalukango, and I graduated from the Pestalozzi class of 2018. Having graduated from high school, through the support of Kucetekela Foundation, I went on to pursue my A-Levels at the African Leadership Academy in South Africa, a decision that I am glad I made. After successfully completing my A-Levels, I was admitted to the prestigious Georgetown University in Qatar where I am now pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service and am intending to major in International Economics.

You would have never guessed that a little girl from Chilenje would one day be making such great strides. I am grateful to Kucetekela Foundation for seeing the potential that I had, even at a young age and giving me a canvas to write this beautiful story that I will forever live to tell with pride. My story, like many of my peers under this program, is one of grace. I will never stop to thank God for how lucky I was to be part of such an amazing movement. The lifelong bonds that Kucetekela Foundation has created for me, and providing me with a family of amazing young leaders, is a gift that I will treasure. My story is incomplete without Kucetekela Foundation. I can't wait to see the adventures of my next 4 years here. Thank you.

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

Chalo grade 8 students rehearsing traditional dances in preparation for Independence Day.

Far right is Thawanda Neba, middle front, Nelly Makondo and back Francis Siboli and Catherine Mumbi.





KUCETEKELA
FOUNDATION



About Us

Kucetekela Foundation is an organization that sponsors talented, high-achieving students in secondary school. Not only do we provide these high-need students with opportunities for quality education, but we also support their holistic personal development, through mentorship, work experience and community service programs. All of our secondary school graduates are currently enrolled in or have completed tertiary programs. We pride ourselves in providing high-quality services for our students, and always strive to inspire them as much as they inspire us.

For more information go to: <https://kucetekelafoundation.org>

OUR KF LEADERSHIP TEAM



OLIVER BARRY
CO-FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT



FLORENCE NKOWANE LUTALE
CO-FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR



MASUKU SIMASIKU MUKENA
CO-FOUNDER AND FINANCE AND
ADMINISTRATION MANAGER



JOSHUA NDONG'A KAMELU
PROGRAMS MANAGER

If you were encouraged by our students and would like to contribute towards their education, please use our donation link:

<https://kucetekelafoundation.org/donate>

or contact Mrs. Florence Nkowane at +260-971-594-959 or kucetekelafoundationzambia@gmail.com to make a donation.

"Kucetekela" means "hope" in Bemba, one of the major languages in Zambia.

KF's vision is to create hope by developing our students into the next generation of Zambian leaders.



THANK YOU FOR READING!