

OUR VOICES

A Special Edition of the Kucetekela Foundation Newsletter



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- RISE Champion
- Gap Year and Alumni Engagement
- Entrepreneurship

REFLECTIONS ON THE GRADE 12S

Returning students reflect on the Grade 12 Graduates



WILLIAM CHANGA

Chalo Flashback on William Changa

By Pauline Masaka

He was not only an excellent academic person but a great leader too, above all loving, wow! Helping others has always been a part of him because he did it passionately. I knew William from my 8th grade but I felt like I knew him my whole life due to the fact that he is open minded. His motivational quotes and stories complemented him more. And I must admit that some of the stories are still a flashback till today.

William Changa had a multitude of leadership positions. For instance, he is one of the founders of Treasured Vessels, a group that is driven to help vulnerable children. This group targets children because they have so much potential that can be used to develop Zambia but due to some unchosen circumstances a lot of ideas are buried within them. William was very innovative to come up with such an idea. This also indicates how big hearted he is.

Having been his working partner once, William was a very understanding and humble person, he was the media, library and prep prefect, he had so many privileges but at no point did he ever look down on others who did not have any leadership position. In JETS club he was the vice president and the Scripture Union leader.

Despite all the pressure from leadership, he strived even harder from dusk till dawn making sure that all giants of life were defeated. One thing he never forgot was to put a smile on everyone's face. He was a social butterfly which made him even more unique and he accommodated everyone no matter the status or personality. I loved how he always wanted the best out of everyone and made people feel like they were stars. It was rare to see William upset because he was always out of his shell.

In conclusion, William Changa was a friendly, helpful, loving understanding innovative, creative and humble person. He was not a leader who just made a crowd follow him but aimed to create potential leaders around him. Desire was always attached to everything he did. He was a zealous student.



Oswald Mutale

Reflection of my Life Around Oswald - By Ephraim Tembo

Understanding the importance of having someone to push you is one principle in life that has helped many to rise. Any man who masters the arts and crafts of this knowledge knows and values the importance of friends and family.

I met Oswald Mutale in 2018 when I was in grade 8. Most people in school knew him as an introvert and a very serious boy but if you developed a personal relationship with him you would come to the realization that he was actually social and interesting.

I'm still trying to adapt this year being in school for the first time without Oswald Mutale, the silent but funny guy. He has been a brother, a friend, teacher, a good leader and many other identities.

I remember in 2019 when I was in grade 9, the first test in Mathematics I got 21%. I felt bad but because Oswald Mutale was one of the Math Masters in school, he started helping me till I got a 100% in the next test. He inspired me to start loving Mathematics, taught me principles of being a good and strong leader and corrected me when I was in the wrong.

Leah's World at Chalo - By Doreen Mwanza



Leah Mtindya

Leah was one of the most hardworking students in school both academically and extracurricular wise. Her leadership potential is quite exceptional. She took on several leadership positions such as chair lady in Treasured vessels, school head girl and song writer.

The young lady inspired me in many ways such as studying hard especially in accounting. She always encouraged me to look up to God and staying confident in everything I did despite the circumstances. I learnt so much from her as she was like a sister and mentor to me and would counsel me on a number of things like good manners.

Precious Mumba, a student at Chalo says: "Miss Leah taught me to be hardworking and determined, not forgetting to live life fully and joyful." This shows the great impact exerted even on the other students.

Through her leadership as head girl, she influenced many students into developing good behavior and led a life of being a good example in all situations. In a nutshell, I describe Leah as a lady of action and full of potential to do abundant things.



Blessings Chileshe

BLESSINGS'S JOURNEY AT PESTALOZZI

By Anthony Kunda (Pestalozzi IB student)

I describe Blessings as an honest and humble leader who puts the interests of others before his. He has an outgoing personality that many students in school admired.

While in school, Blessings had a huge responsibility as head boy. He successfully made sure there was order in school and that everyone adhered to school rules. I personally admired his dedication towards studies, leadership and extracurricular activities. These are some of the qualities I'm emulating from him. When it came to KF activities, he was always on top of things to make sure all the students handed in their reports, articles and any other given task. I have no doubt that everywhere he goes he will continue to be an example to others.

As part of his extra curricular activities, he enjoyed playing soccer and would compete against other teams outside school. One notable time was when he scored against the toughest team at Lake Road school. This was after several attempts by other players. Many were the times I would request to train with him so I could better my skill too.

In a nutshell, Blessings made a positive difference at Pestalozzi and as he starts his new journey to higher learning institutions, I wish him nothing but the very best.



Kelvin's Journey at Pestalozzi

By Isaac Mulenga (Grade 9 student)

Kelvin was one of the first students who welcomed me as I enrolled at Pestalozzi. His warm welcome made me to never regret being in boarding school. After getting the KF scholarship, I was thrilled and at the same time afraid of the life in boarding schools as speculated by other people. An encounter with Kelvin Ziwa made me realize how wonderful boarding life is. I looked up to him as a brother and friend whom I could confide in whenever I had difficulty times.

I remember a time when I didn't do well in my first Math test, he encouraged me to stay focused and not get affected by the low grade. He told me of his own experience how he failed certain subjects but each time he got low marks he would be motivated to study even harder so he could get his desired grade.

Kelvin is not only academically sound but would engage in sports too. He played on the school soccer team and took part in inter schools and inter house competitions. It was amazing to see how he took full control of the ball when on the soccer field. He also played basketball and at times netball.

Kelvin Ziwa

MY EXPERIENCE AROUND ROSEMARY MBAO

BY Bupe Musonda

Rosemary Mbao is a special girl that I treasure and look up to in life. Under no circumstances would I ever forget her. She's one of the best people I have met in my teen life. Ambitious, courageous and intelligent is what defines her. Not only that but good hearted too. I call her mother because she took care of me when I first started my secondary school at Pestalozzi Education Centre in 2018.

As young as 13years, life wasn't easy in boarding school. I would cry and feel out of place most



of the times because I wasn't strong enough to stand my own ground and this affected me so much. Rosemary stood by my side and showed me how a smart, strong and fearless girl should be and things got better. Sisterhood is one of the most important relationships one can have in their lifetime and it doesn't always have to be defined by blood. Oftentimes close friends can take on the role of a sister and provide us with the wisdom, closeness, and trust we need.

Rosemary and I understand each other in many ways hence creating a positive environment.

We are still good friends today and she has never left my side. For the most part, I

just want to let everyone know that interacting with others is something very important. On the contrary being in your comfort zone takes you nowhere, you need to reach out to network with other people thus making a greater change.

Apart from her social life, Rosemary is academically sound and a leader. She served the school well as head girl and made sure everything was in place. She also put in effort in her studies and her labor could be seen in her results, always among the top students.

Thank you for being a good friend Rosemary Mbao!! It goes without saying that your being part of my life has been a source of joy and laughter. Iconic gal pals like Oprah and Gayle especially remind us that finding a true friend is a blessing and gift. Our relationships evolve with the changing of seasons, and childhood friends sometimes become close to us like family. Some of our friends become our chosen families offering support that we need the most.



THE RISE CHAMPION - *By Leah Mtindya*

It felt like a dream when I saw an email from RISE congratulating me for becoming a winner. I could not believe what just happened. My RISE application journey was not an easy one. It was full of challenging tasks and sometimes negative energy from people. I would hear statements like “over a thousand students globally apply and chances of being picked are very slim.” It nearly felt impossible to make it to the 100 winners but I kept pushing as hard as I could. On the other side I had my exams to think about and other programs to do but still managed to do my RISE project. Being one of the global winners made me feel that I am capable of attaining anything no matter how competitive it may be. This is

my greatest achievement so far.

RISE is a long and unique application where there is no writing involved. However, you get to use videos to express your motivation, passion and problem solving abilities. There are three stages involved in the RISE application. Firstly, there is an introduction stage where you express your passion and generally who you are. This stage basically identifies your area of interest and why you are passionate about it. To be an outstanding student you need to express yourself and state clearly what you would contribute to the world.

The second stage involves developing a project in line with your passion. A scholar identifies a problem and attempts to solve it through various possible means. This stage tests your problem solving and critical thinking skills. The project you choose to complete should be done individually. Afterwards you are required to submit the videos then later give a summary of your project.

The last stage is not so long. All you do is take a puzzle quiz which is quite tricky and very important. One needs a stable internet connection to do the quiz because it can only be done once and lasts for about 25 minutes. An unstable internet connection may result in loss of marks resulting from not completing all the questions. Failing the quiz means you will not proceed to the next stage. The last thing on this stage is to review your peers' videos on the projects they did. The videos should be nine in total for at least three peers, then that would mark the end of the application.

I did a project on reducing teenage pregnancy and did peer tutoring as my own way of solving the problem. Within my community, it became very common for girls to fall pregnant because they had few activities to do during COVID-19 as schools were closed. The other thing I did was host girl talks to enable the teenagers to express themselves.

BOOK WORLD INTERNSHIP

By William Changa



I had quite an experience interning at the Book World store, where I assumed position of a sales assistant and found the work intriguing as I had to learn how to handle different situations and customers. This built my character and I understood different people and personalities as well.

I also learnt how actual businesses operate in the real world and served as an eye-opener for me to meet the business world. My internship also sparked an interest to start considering studying business as a possible career.

Book World is a very large stationery store and bookshop. This prompted me to start reading novels and books, at least just the summaries to ensure that I gave better advice to the customers. This intensive reading was helping me as well to develop a reading culture. On several occasions, I remember being asked 'what kind of books I would recommend for young entrepreneurs. This constantly made me seek the best possible solution and decided to read most of the business books. This did two things for me, firstly I was able to offer better advice to the customers and secondly, I gained personal knowledge about entrepreneurship and the much needed skills.



William Changa working in the packing section.

MasterCard Scholarship at United States International University - Africa (USIU)

By Mercy Mulenga

Hello! My name is Mercy Mulenga, and I am one of the lucky students to study at USIU. I am pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Epidemiology and Biostatistics. USIU is a private university located in Kenya, Nairobi.

Before my admission to the university, I had a long process of essay writing, answering short questions and having online interviews. The first process was applying to the MasterCard office at USIU once the call of applicants was available. This included essay writing questions, basic personal information, and family background. After the information I submitted was reviewed by



different panelists, I qualified to the next round which was interviews. They scheduled the interviews according to EAT so it was up to me to take the responsibility of researching on the different time zones and convert it to the Zambian time. The interviews test the legitimacy of your achievements hence you have to show them evidence such as certificates and other academic credentials. Furthermore, the documents are taken to the school registrar once you are on campus. At every stage of the application, there is always a call and email from the programs team to inform you the status of your application. The last stage is applying to the University for admission.

The scholarship covers almost everything. A laptop is provided to each scholar at the beginning of various programs and there is stipend provided for personal use every month. Accommodation is provided at all

times you are in Kenya and there is a chance of coming home every December holiday with all expenses covered by the program. Meals are provided, and one is at liberty to choose a variety of dishes from the cafeteria. Moreover, there are events such as the Scholars Connect events that enable all MasterCard scholars at USIU to meet and have different activities. In addition, all academic resources required and recommended by the lecturers are all provided. The school also provides eclectic trainings that are available to fully equip students before graduation.

MY TRANSITION TO A NEW JOB – By Barbara Kifokola, Class of 2015



As a former KF intern and student, I was incredibly excited to become intern officer for Access Bank Zambia in the compliance department. Working for Kucetekela Foundation helped me grow in so many different aspects of my life and career.

Coming straight from college, I did not know so much concerning work. I wondered how Excel worked, how to communicate and write effectively or how to relate with so many things in the corporate world. Working at the KF office helped me learn work ethics such as getting along with co-workers, students and parents. I have also learnt several computer skills that are helping me in the management of social media and organizing the bank's documents.

When I started working for Access Bank, it was very easy to adjust simply because of the experience I had with several tasks, especially those relating to documentation. As a KYC intern officer, I am required to check account

openings and documentation to see if they are up to the bank's standard. If the information does not correlate, then I have to communicate to the customer. This is one principle I learnt from KF to always give an update on what's going on.

My interpersonal skills have greatly improved through the interacting with different people from all walks of life. My new job has also exposed me to different provinces of the country because as the compliance department, we travel to different branches of the bank in Zambia to inspect if the workers are abiding by the code and policies of the Bank of Zambia and of course Access Bank. It gets intimidating sometimes as I go and inspect bank employees who have worked for the bank even longer than I have but I gather up my courage and get going.

One of my greatest experiences so far has been going into the ATM room which is a place where we load money for the customers to withdraw. As a regular customer, I always wondered exactly what went on inside the ATM machine and how exactly it worked. After this encounter, my long term curiosity disappeared. The bank is a place of work that requires so much discipline. If you are not disciplined, you might find yourself wanted by the law therefore one has to be observant and extremely careful when working. I'm truly grateful for the opportunity that was given to me as a KF alumni intern. it made me grow in so many ways.



THE IKAZE CEREMONY

By Cecilia Banda

I attended the IKAZE ceremony during the third week of my arrival at ALU. This event is composed mainly of the first, second, third years and a few guests. The IKAZE, meaning welcome in Kinyarwanda, the local language of Rwanda, was a ceremony intended to welcome us into the ALU community officially.

As ALU prides itself in celebrating different diversities, the program started with a red carpet walk by the first years entering with people from other countries than ours; my entry partner was a Togolese. This action was exciting because of all the different outfits mixing and not mixing simultaneously.

Next, we had performances from senior students, some speeches, and perhaps the epitome of the evening, the candle lighting. The latter is a custom where an old student lights a candle and passes it on to a first year as a symbol of 'passing on the baton.' Then we said the oath to be ethical leaders and to serve our communities, countries, and Africa at large.

One particular impression I enjoyed was the walk of nations. Students from different parts of the world represented their countries with traditional outfits, traditional ornaments, flags, and dances. I might want to add that interestingly, I was the only one clad in my country's flag colors!

There was a lot of dancing afterward and much socializing. Although it rained heavily and the event was disturbed, I had a fantastic time further immersing myself in the idea of diversity and celebration of differences. I was and still am

incredibly thankful that I get to be part of this great movement of finding solutions for Africa by Africans.



ENTREPRENEURS IN ACTION

By Francine Balasi

Nothing changes until you decide to change it and circumstances only take a different turn when we decide to work on our behavior towards things. Every individual can do business but not everyone can be an entrepreneur because entrepreneurs play by a different set of

rules. This has been true especially concerning the KF alumni farm. Alumni together with KF management have realized the importance of our natural resource, land and how best to use it. We run with the spirit of entrepreneurship and ubuntu, 'togetherness.'

Of late, there has been so much development on the farm in Mumbwa district. By nature, this area is blessed with good soils and good people who have played a role in helping us with so much concerning farming. We started slowly but what is important is that we started. Careful logistics had to be made starting with what crops to grow, when to grow, when to cultivate etc. This was done by alumni Kellyson Siamunju who is head of entrepreneurship in the alumni program and Mama Nkowane. They played a role in making sure everything was in place.

As agreed, soybeans were to be grown as it is a very profitable crop and has a market. One attribute of an entrepreneur is to be innovative therefore management and alumni also decided to have other crops grown besides the soybeans. It is always good to have variety in case of unforeseen circumstances such as crop failure or pests. Beans, sweet potatoes and sunflower are accompanying crops grown on the portions of that piece of land. 4 bags of soybeans were secured and grown on two hectares. Sunflower, sweet potatoes and beans were grown on the remaining 3 hectares.

The initial activities involved in the starting of a farm project are not so easy, one has to exercise patience and make sure everything is well planned. After the planting, crops have to be well taken care of through spraying of some useful chemicals, weeding and generally good plant management. Some alumni participated in the planting and have been very helpful in monitoring the development of the crops. Some would spend some time at the farm and help in many farm activities. We are glad to see quick germination of the soybeans and hoping for a good yield.

The merits of this project have gone beyond the alumni, now parents are also getting on board to buy land and farm. KF has influenced even outsiders to see the value of land. Countless people have secured land for several activities. Not to forget several alumni who have also bought land through this project. What an impactful



initiative even to the local people in Mumbwa because development has been brought to them. Some land owners will build schools, homes, centers hence creating many opportunities. I had many exciting moments during this period such as ploughing with cows, which was a tricky method but fun. Some moments were scary like an encounter with snakes though they died during ploughing. Some local youths volunteered to help and I had a great chat with them and learnt how to prepare the local drink called munkoyo.

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.



Our Leadership Team

Oliver Barry	Co-founder and President
Florence Nkowane Lutale	Co-founder and Executive Director
Simasiku Mukena	Co-founder and Finance and Administration Manager
Joshua N. 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 +260971594959 or kucetekelafoundationzambia@gmail.com to make a donation.

Thank you for reading!