

Cornerstone

Learn to change the world



Student Profiles

Supporting Social Justice and Economic Transformation.



Naa'irah Saul

ABOUT STUDENT

I grew up in Cape Town with amazing and supportive parents and two loving sisters. I come from a very diverse family background. Growing up in a big family I learnt that everyone has their own views on life and that even though there might be conflict about the different viewpoints we have, we always stand by each other, because family is everything. In my family we went through a lot of challenges that shaped me into who I am today. One of the challenges I faced in my life that really taught me a big lesson was when I went through anxiety and depression in high school, I learned that you should not take mental illness lightly. Without my family I do not think I would be able to cope.

Looking ahead at my studies I need financial support so that it can take the burden off my parent's shoulders as they have three children to take care of.

PERSONAL PROFILE



Name:	Naa'irah
Surname:	Saul
Reference:	NS070798
Gender:	Female
D.O.B.	07/07/1998
Nationality:	South African
Race:	Coloured
Programme:	BA Psychology
Start Year:	2018
Year of study:	3rd
Local City:	Cape Town

I am studying psychology because I love listening and helping people, mostly teenagers' because they are still trying to figure out their identity and I want to empower people to reach their dreams and overcome obstacles in their life. Once I receive my qualifications, I'm hoping to get a job as either a clinical/counselling psychologist or school psychologist or health psychologist, while doing organisation work. I would like to start my own non-profit organisation, one that supports all causes and allows support for as many causes as people can without needing to be super rich or qualified in something. There is a quote that says "We rise by lifting others" which really is something I'm trying to live by. If I had the money, I would start a non-profit organisation which supports all causes and gives free counselling to those who need it. Some of the many things I want to do is start something that helps unemployed people find jobs and learn skills, open safe and helpful shelters which are free, and I would want to educate as many people as possible from primary school all the way up to college/university.

PERSONAL PROFILE



Shamiso Ruzvidzo

ABOUT STUDENT

I was born in a family of 6, I am the youngest of four boys and two girls. My father passed away when I was two months old, so I was raised by a single mother. I grew up in a small village called Ziriwo in Mhondoro, Zimbabwe. Both my primary and high school education was completed in the village, where only God knows how I managed to complete my studies. I grew up in serious and deep poverty where we lacked even something to eat, as my father died and left us with nothing. The oldest sibling of mine was in grade 7 when my father passed so we had no one to help us.

Then later after my high school I moved to South Africa because of the hardship and it was unsafe as the family was ready to sell me out for slavery for their own benefit. I had hope to maybe find work and empower myself and pursue my education as my mother failed to send me to college as we could not afford it.

PERSONAL PROFILE



Name:	Shamiso
Surname:	Ruzvidzo
Reference:	SR121190
Gender:	Female
D.O.B.	12/11/1990
Nationality:	Zimbabwean
Race:	Black
Programme:	BCom
Start Year:	2018
Year of study:	3rd
Local City:	Cape Town

I honestly cannot afford to pay for my school fees as living here in South Africa is not easy at all.

On top of that, I have not achieved any proper qualification to get a proper job. All I do is community service and volunteering so I don't get paid. However I am passionate about my education and I really want to be somebody in life who will be independent and be able to help those in need.

I always had the desire to earn a bachelor's degree in commerce as well as a PhD. No matter the challenges of life I never gave up on who I want to become and what I want to achieve. I have the desire to make a difference in the world and I believe a qualification will be the foundation for my career and to be able to help the world.

There are many ways to impact the world around us. For me I will take advantage of my education in business studies, my godly character, positive attitude, goal-oriented personality and many other attributes imbedded in me to touch the world around me. I will engage people on a personal level and bigger audiences as the opportunity arises.



Nathi Mzola

ABOUT STUDENT

My name is Nathi Mzola I am 23 years of age, I was born and bred in Cape Town in a small township called crossroads a township that is well known for all sorts of crimes, high rate of teenage pregnancy and substance abuse. Growing up in this community was not an easy thing at all, it is a type of township where gunshots became a norm where the youth take crime as their culture. Making dreams come true seems impossible, especially because there aren't many people to look up to.

I was raised by my grandmother. Being raised by my grandmother was not so bad even though I longed for my mother's love at the time that was impossible because she was in another province. When she came back, I found out I had a younger sister, I never got the opportunity to know my father as he passed away while I was still very young.

I attended a public government school, I always had a dream of becoming a news reader, because of my excellent reading skills this continued to be my dream even in high school. However, things changed in 2013 when I was sexually abused by a taxi driver on my way to school. That day changed my entire life, but it changed my life in a positive way that is when my dream of becoming a psychologist began.

PERSONAL PROFILE



Name:	Nathi
Surname:	Mzola
Reference:	NM131197
Gender:	Female
D.O.B.	13/11/1997
Nationality:	South African
Race:	Black
Programme:	BA Psychology
Start Year:	2020
Year of study:	2nd
Local City:	Cape Town

I chose to study psychology because I wanted to understand human behavior and nature. I believe no one is born as a rapist and no one is born as a criminal. With my story I want to empower and motivate other young people who have had the same experiences as mine, telling someone you experienced the same thing as them automatically gives them hope to know things are not always as bad as they seem.

I enrolled for the BA program at cornerstone Institute in 2017 even though this is a private institution and with my families background it did not stop me from pursuing my dream of becoming a psychologist. It is unfortunate that my mother cannot afford to pay for my educational fees because she is the sole breadwinner who takes care of my siblings, my son as well as my extended family in the Eastern Cape.

I therefore seek financial assistance so I can continue with my studies, obtain my degree and make my dream of being a psychologist come true. This degree will not only benefit me but it will also help me to ensure my son has a better future and does not have to go down the same road as I did. It will also benefit my family because I would be able to assist my mother financially, lastly this degree will open doors for me in empowering and motivating the youth of my community it will show them coming from a disadvantaged background cannot stop you from dreaming and becoming what I wish to become in life.

PERSONAL PROFILE



Bonita Blankenberg

ABOUT STUDENT

My name is Bonita Blankenberg. I am the eldest daughter of Daphne and Abraham Blankenberg. We are four siblings: I have two brothers and a sister. I am blessed to be from a loving family, with parents who always encouraged me to strive towards a better future, despite my blindness. Positivity is my driving force. It is important to not be hampered by your circumstances, to strive towards making a difference in your community, for yourself, and for those around you.

I love surrounding myself with positive people, sharing ideas that can change the way people perceive disability. I am a weekend presenter at my local community radio station, Bok Radio. It gives me the opportunity to share information and to play a meaningful role in the lives of those who listen. I assist students in my immediate community with after school Braille lessons and Basic Computer Skills Training. I am also a member of Blind of SA Peninsula.

PERSONAL PROFILE



Name:	Bonita
Surname:	Blankenberg
Reference:	BB090182
Gender:	Female
D.O.B.	09/01/1982
Nationality:	South African
Race:	Coloured
Programme:	PGCE
Start Year:	2020
Year of study:	2nd
Local City:	Cape Town

I am currently tutoring English Home Language at the Athlone School for the Blind on a contract basis. Due to my journalism degree, I am able to do the basic language skills training. However, with my radio background and my love for children, this certificate will be opening doors for me within the educational sphere. Teaching blind children is a passion I have been nurturing for some time. I understand their challenges and wish to prepare them to play a meaningful roles within the South African economy.

Empowering our young is the best tool we can give them towards becoming smart individuals. Living with a disability should be a challenge, and not a burden. That is what I wish to instil in the young ones. I have a B-Tech Journalism degree, which I have achieved in a time when a blind person studying journalism was not the norm. I have worked in various spheres of PR, where I developed my interpersonal skills. My radio career includes stations such as Cape Talk, KFM, Radio Today, and Bush Radio. I also won the Gauteng Sports Award for a woman with Disability in 2012.



Fierdouz Lanie

ABOUT STUDENT

What inspires me is seeing others work hard and achieve their goals. I look deeper into things than just the surface. I care and give extra whenever I can. I am goal driven but still looking out for those around me. I have a newborn baby and 2 other kids and currently the only parent working, I am trying my best to help my family survive. I give charity whenever given the opportunity. I have always aspired to become a teacher.

I have been working hard to accomplish this dream and goal since I left high school. With this degree I hope to give back to schools by helping educate children, especially those of poorer backgrounds and also teaching them the importance of education.

My greatest achievement is being a full-time student, a mom and wife and still managing to give my family full attention and pass all my grades.

PERSONAL PROFILE



Name:	Fierdouz
Surname:	Lanie
Reference:	FL210193
Gender:	Female
D.O.B.	21/01/1993
Nationality:	South African
Race:	Coloured
Programme:	PGCE
Start Year:	2020
Year of study:	2nd
Local City:	Mitchells Plain

I grew up with both my parents and 2 sisters. I am goal driven but still looking out for those around me. I am a hard-worker, wanting to achieve my goals and making a way even on my own to accomplish my goals. I will try every avenue until I reach my goals in the hope that it will benefit myself, but most importantly my children, for a better life. They are my true inspiration.

I enjoy hiking and the outdoors, my kids are my best enjoyment. I am truly grateful for all my opportunities this far.



**Hologelo Desiree
Moreti**

ABOUT STUDENT

A teacher is not what I have always wanted to be. Having majored in Accounting through high school and completing a Bachelor's degree in Accountancy, I just assumed that whatever I did would have to be related to that field. It was, however, during a time of reflection after graduating that I thought about exploring other opportunities. I then accepted a job as a facilitator for the University of Johannesburg English Language Program (UJELP). Working with people from different countries, learning from one another, making positive connections was wonderful and adventurous. This made me develop a strong desire to travel abroad. Later on, that year I completed a TEFL course and applied for jobs in China. Teaching in China made me dig deep within my myself, it made me reflect on my schooling days , how my young self, longed for a teacher / mentor to push me to come out of my shell, encourage me to reach my potential and accomplish amazing things. Sadly, having attended public schools I never had that teacher.

PERSONAL PROFILE



Name:	Hlologelo Desiree
Surname:	Moreti
Reference:	HM220692
Gender:	Female
D.O.B.	22/06/1992
Nationality:	South African
Race:	Black
Programme:	PGCE
Start Year:	2020
Year of study:	2 nd
Local City:	Olifantsfontein

This eventually made me come to a realization that I want to pursue a career in education. I want to become an educator that I wish I had growing up.

The kind that inspires students to work harder, encourage students to fulfil their potential, and change student's lives beyond academic enrichment.

I am confident that this new found career path will both excites and challenge me, while allowing me to grow as a person, not just professionally but personally as well. My ultimate dream is to have my own school in my country, South Africa.

Growing up I have always strived to better myself through learning new things, meeting new people and putting myself in a position to have an opportunity. Whether this means joining various society groups on campus such as religious clubs, volunteering to be a peer buddy for the internationalization division, learning a new language such as French and Chinese as well as changing a career path. In doing so, I see my major strengths and attributes as being flexible and motivated.

Knowing the intrinsic value, I derive from pursuing these endeavours, I am certain that I have the ability and drive to consistently better myself.

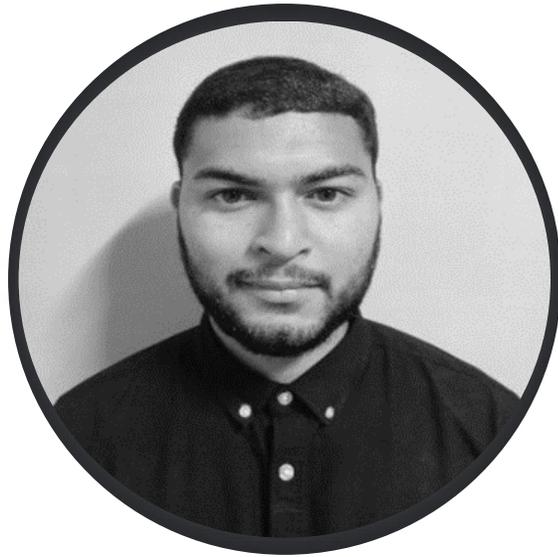
PERSONAL PROFILE



The last time I was involved in a community service was in varsity when I was a member of the community engagement club, through this club we gave back to the community in various ways such as tutoring learners, donations and assisting with community projects. At the moment, I am looking for Organizations to volunteer or work with, I would like to mentor young people growing up in the townships because I have been in their shoes and I know the hardships. I am also a compassionate and generous person, I always donate my clothing to the underprivileged, this can be relatives, or people in need.

I have a strong interest in pursuing a teaching career. I decided to study PGCE in Foundation Phase because the qualification will give me a Teacher Qualified Status (QTS). QTS will allow me to teach in my country as well as internationally. Another advantage of PGCE is that most courses give you credits towards a Master's degree. The PGCE offers the opportunity to have guidance from expert tutors who are both teachers and academics.

Through the study topics around teaching and learning theories, current educational issues and behavioural management I will develop an ability to explore the art of education. I also liked the fact that I will complete my practical at three different schools, this will help me gain a broad perspective on different types of establishments. My desire in the education field is to change student's lives beyond academic enrichment. I want to connect with my students and reach them on multiple levels, and be committed to their well-being both inside and outside the classroom. Beyond that, I look forward to forging strong relationships with my students, to affect virtually every aspect of their lives, teaching the important life lessons that will guide them in their decision making, lifestyle choices and shaping their character. As their role model I want to guide them to discover their potential; encourage them to fulfil their goals and accomplish amazing things.



Ryan Eric Chetty

ABOUT STUDENT

I'm the eldest brother out of 4 children, I have 2 brothers and a sister. My mom had me when she was 16 years old and married my dad who was 20 years of age at the time. My mom was born Muslim and her family disowned her when she made the choice to convert to Christianity. Growing up I was never really exposed to her side of the family. My mother was constantly abused physically and emotionally in her marriage to my father, knowing that she had no one to turn to. My brothers are 2 and 4 years younger than myself. By the age of 9 my mother had divorced my father after the countless abuse and cheating she had experienced. They remarried when I was 10, and at 11 my sister was born. That same year we were all baptised with my newly born sister. By the time, my sister was here they seemed to have been able to successfully live together even though the occasional fighting and constant drunk behaviour that we were exposed to commenced. I finished Matric in 2013.

PERSONAL PROFILE



Name:	Ryan Eric
Surname:	Chetty
Reference:	RC020696
Gender:	Male
D.O.B.	02/06/1996
Nationality:	South African
Race:	Coloured
Programme:	BA Psychology
Start Year:	2020
Year of study:	2nd
Local City:	Cape Town

At this time my parents seemed happy and had been successful in obtaining the material lifestyle, I have moved a total of 14 times due to the roller-coaster functioning of my parent's relationship.. In 2014 my parents got divorced again due to the continuous cycling of fighting, alcohol, women and gambling.

I have been homeless and have not felt the full effects due to my mother's determination to ensure her children were protected and fed. I have studied at UWC in 2015 and completed my BA first year and during my second year I had to drop out and find a job in order to provide for the house. I currently stay with my mother and siblings, being the sole provider for the household.

I started at Okuhle Media as a timekeeper without any experience or studying and have worked to become a VT operator currently for two SABC shows. I hope to still further grow into the field of media and at some point merge my ideals through showcasing the development of spiritual growth and youth development in film.



Cole Bailey

ABOUT STUDENT

I am someone who is determined, driven and passionate to help and inspire others. I always try to be the best version of myself and try to set an example for others to do the same.

The fact that we all have a purpose and unique gifts that we have been blessed with. Each day is a new chance to keep getting better and self-improvement is the key to living a life of abundance.

During the COVID pandemic I have been assisting with delivering food parcels to poverty-stricken communities, as well as volunteering for the Claremont Improvement District Company, when community projects were being done.

I want to gain the knowledge and basic understanding that is required for the field I want to step into. Once I finish the Higher Certificate programme I plan to use the credits towards a degree in Community Counselling.

PERSONAL PROFILE



Name:	Cole
Surname:	Bailey
Reference:	CB201001
Gender:	Male
D.O.B.	20/10/2001
Nationality:	South African
Race:	Coloured
Programme:	HC Community Counselling
Start Year:	2020
Year of study:	2nd
Local City:	Cape Town

The Generation of today are faced with many problems that affect them mentally. I know for a fact that there are many that have the same story as myself. I want to give people the help I desperately needed.

I completed a short course and achieved a Diploma in Sports Nutrition. I also completed a Hillsong Gap Year programme in 2020 and I have started my own clothing business, "Blessed by God" to inspire the youth. I started making music, with my first video reaching almost 600 views in 6 days.



Helene Eeden

ABOUT STUDENT

I am 24 years old, currently studying in Johannesburg, but originally from Durban. I am working as a full-time teacher and love working with the children. I am passionate and committed to and about teaching.

The fact that I can be anything I want inspires me in life. I make my own decisions and if I want to change a certain aspect I can because life waits for no one.

I have helped at animal shelters and schools, and I recently contributed food to the SPCA.

I have chosen the PGCE programme, because I want to be a teacher. I want to be involved with educating children and coaching sports. It will increase my salary, bettering my quality of life.

PERSONAL PROFILE



Name:	Helene
Surname:	Eeden
Reference:	HE100996
Gender:	Female
D.O.B.	10/09/1996
Nationality:	South African
Race:	White
Programme:	PGCE
Start Year:	2019
Year of study:	3rd
Local City:	Johannesburg

A positive impact by being a mentor to the children I teach, not only as an educator, but as someone who can give advice and lead through example.

I love participating in sports and since we have been allowed to play again, I play social league hockey. Other activities and achievements have been difficult with COVID being around.



Thandiwe de Kock

ABOUT STUDENT

I work as a content curator for a digital media company in South Africa, and I am pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Media Studies, with Sociology as a major.

I am inspired by people and social justice. I am aware of the many ways that the media can be harmful to any community that does not fit within the confines of a heteronormative, patriarchal society and I want to be able to become a voice for the future in media.

I am part of an organisation called S.LOW Tribe. We are a community of women dedicated to creating space for African women in the digital world, as we prepare for the fourth industrial revolution. We organise digital social justice campaigns, working with Digital Girl Africa to connect young women in digital technology.

PERSONAL PROFILE



Name:	Thandiwe
Surname:	de Kock
Reference:	TK181194
Gender:	Female
D.O.B.	18/11/1994
Nationality:	South African
Race:	Coloured
Programme:	BA Media Studies
Start Year:	2019
Year of study:	3rd
Local City:	Cape Town

It is my dream to continue my work in the digital media realm, to continue to create space and change on a large scale. Furthering my education is a key step in that journey, which is why this degree would benefit my career and social impact in the media industry.

I hope to make impactful change in the world of digital technology so that I can be a part of the shift in media ownership. I want to inspire a change in the narrative of women in the media including the representation and empowerment of women, non-binary, and the LGBTQI+ community to take up space.

I am working on a digital social media campaign for the People's Assembly, an organisation that connects the public to parliament, as well as currently working, with S.Low Tribe, with Domestic Workers Trade Unions on a social awareness campaign for domestic workers in South Africa. I have published work in two online magazines, one locally and another based in Australia, as well as a short story published in an anthology, I am organising a yoga and meditation workshop aimed towards people of colour at a festival in December.

PERSONAL PROFILE



Riefka Christians

ABOUT STUDENT

After my house burnt down back in 2017 myself, mom and so year-old sister have been living in a Wendy house in Retreat. I love the idea of reading books, dancing and being the most respectful individual around.

I see myself as a sturdy individual who aims to inspire those around me and myself. The people around me stimulate me to aim for better and to put my mom into a house one day.

I previously completed community service at Ottery fire department where I learnt about the purpose of their job and the importance of it.

I am hoping my studies will help grow my ambition and my life's purpose. Psychologists are the leading light for many, and I wish to be part of that too. I aspire to influence the behaviour of others.

PERSONAL PROFILE



Name:	Riefka
Surname:	Christians
Reference:	RC031102
Gender:	Female
D.O.B.	03/11/2002
Nationality:	South African
Race:	Coloured
Programme:	BA Psychology
Start Year:	2021
Year of study:	1st
Local City:	Cape Town

I hanker to learn the human mind and react positively by the inner workings. I also wish to attempt to make sense of and react to the realities of our society.

I completed a camp on surviving nature. I danced in front of 10,000 people at Arand West Arena. I love to keep fit e.g.: cycling and learning new things and finally, reading.



**Samantha Storm
Roberts**

ABOUT STUDENT

I am a mom of two amazing young ladies. I love the outdoors, have overcome many obstacles and am moving toward thriving.

I look for the beauty and strength in people and listen for the truth (I know it when I hear it). Resilience in the face of struggle. Joy stories.

I have served as a counsellor, life group leader and mentor in Life Changes Church for most years between 2010 and 2018.

I hope to qualify as a counselling Psychologist and serve my community, eventually in private practice.

PERSONAL PROFILE



Name:	Samantha Storm
Surname:	Roberts
Reference:	SR011077
Gender:	Female
D.O.B.	07/10/1977
Nationality:	South African
Race:	White
Programme:	BA Psychology
Start Year:	2020
Year of study:	2nd
Local City:	Cape Town

I have a particular interest in the impact of trauma on mental health and hope to contribute to effective trauma resolution in individuals and communities.

Apart from working full-time and serving in a ministry capacity at church up until 2019, 2020 was focused mainly on 1st year online (full-time) and seeing my family through lockdown.



Ellouise Christians

ABOUT STUDENT

I am from Laingville, St. Helena Bay in the West Coast. I am 38 years old, and I am married. I have a 15 year old son and we live in Saldanha. I have a BTech in Chemical Engineering and more than 10 years' experience in the industry as an operator and Chemical Engineering Trainee.

I am currently doing a Postgraduate Certificate in Education. Now I am unemployed and hoping to get financial assistance while I am searching for employment. I am a very patient and trustworthy person. Last month I worked as a teaching assistant, appointed in the place of teachers with comorbidities, but since they are back at work, we are unemployed once again. I am still hopeful that my luck will turn soon.

I enjoyed being a teaching assistant and I am certain that being a teacher is my calling. To get a bursary will secure my future as a student and as a teacher. I am a firm believer in the value of lifelong learning. Education is an opportunity for a person to keep acquiring knowledge and for me it is a means to escape difficult circumstances, short term and long term. I believe in the power of positivity, and I believe in a living God. I am inspired by perseverance and people who follow their dreams. I have been a tutor in my community for many years. Some of the children that I tutored are university students today.

PERSONAL PROFILE



Name:	Ellouise
Surname:	Christians
Reference:	EC140682
Gender:	Female
D.O.B.	14/06/1982
Nationality:	South African
Race:	Coloured
Programme:	PGCE
Start Year:	2020
Year of study:	2 nd
Local City:	Saldanha

Since the uncertainty with Covid-19 I was not actively involved, but working at the local school was part of getting back into the game. We definitely have a big role to play as the children were disadvantaged during the lockdown. I also support those in need, and I help people who are sick or don't have any income during this difficult time.

I did a BTech in Chemical Engineering and for the past 5 years I was a stay at home mom. My son grew up with my mother while I was studying and working in Cape Town and I couldn't wait to come back to the West Coast. Unfortunately, there are not much employment opportunities this side and I started tutoring children in my community. Often people said that I will be a great teacher, but I was still focused on finding an opportunity in the engineering field. Today I regret that I didn't do my PGCE earlier. I really enjoy teaching. I will definitely find employment as this is the community where I grew up and I can use my network, but most of all, I hope to be an outstanding teacher, Mathematics and Science is my passion and I can make a change in the lives of my learners.

I hope to be a role model to my learners and inspire them to always give their best. My greatest pleasure is seeing my learners succeed in all subjects and trying to make me proud. The real value of education lies in its potential to broaden your mind and I can contribute towards broadening the minds of my learners. Most of all, I recently experienced that there are days when our learners go to school without something to eat. I need to be there to support these learners and others who need me.



Kerry-Leigh Cross

ABOUT STUDENT

As the youngest child, being born after two boys, I began my early steps of life in Gauteng. I had a vibrant childhood making lots of friends, and desperately wanting to start school before my time had come. When I was 6 years old, we moved to Durban as my parents, Carol and Vaughn Cross decided the town of Amanzimtoti was a quaint town to settle in. My brother, Chris, who is two years older than me and whom I share a close bond with, accompanied me to the same school; Amanzimtoti Primary school. I enjoyed Primary school and I loved making friends. I was diligent and I did not ever want to miss a day of learning. My brother, Damien is eight years older than me, and we have become good friends as our age gap has closed during adulthood.

During primary school, my father became distant to us as a family and my parents got divorced when I was 10 years old. Chris, mom, and I, moved into a flat together and my older brother moved out in 2008. The aftermath of the 2007 recession left my mom having to raise us and financially support my brother and I alone. My mom was and is someone that has always stayed present and endured with resilience and love for us, her children. My mom faced betrayal from business partners and was left without her job at the estate agency she had worked for, for many years. Unfortunately, we had no support from my dad, but my mom did her best and pushed through like a champion to find a job and support us.

PERSONAL PROFILE



Name:	Kerry – Leigh
Surname:	Cross
Reference:	KC010395
Gender:	Female
D.O.B.	01/03/1995
Nationality:	South African
Race:	White
Programme:	PGCE
Start Year:	2019
Year of study:	3 rd
Local City:	Durban
Name:	Kerry – Leigh

She has been my main source of guidance and leadership in my life. My mom is someone of great faith and God really kept her afloat with finding work and a source of income during my teenage years. I was very privileged to attend Durban Girls' High School and was awarded a student grant when my mom could not pay school fees for a period. My Science, Math and English teachers had a positive influence on my attitude towards learning. Even though I was being stretched academically, in other ways it was a turbulent time and I was a bit lost with what to pursue as a career. I worked incredibly hard in school and did not think much about what would suit me as a career but rather focussing on excelling in the difficult subjects like Math and Science. I did enjoy learning maths and science and I became very fascinated with Earth Sciences. University proved it true, I enjoyed collecting data out in the field, gaining new experiences out at sea, and learning more about the natural world. I was interested in the stories of local fishermen regarding their struggle to compete with commercial fisheries. I became intrigued by the impacts of climate change and some devastating facts about how we fish our oceans.

Things took a turn when it came down to doing research, I became frustrated during my year of honours. I felt pursuing research would require me to spend hours isolated in a laboratory and at a computer when I wanted to share the knowledge I had gained. I longed to work in more social environments.

In 2018, I decided to take a break from studying and readjust my career goals.

PERSONAL PROFILE



What I thought would be a break from research turned out to be an awakening of natural talents and passions within me. Through the tuition of young kids, I started teaching and I began to enjoy being the role model to little children and inspire them through teaching.

I am a curious, creative, and calm person and I love to look at life as one big puzzle, where every piece is connected to each other. I love having fun, being silly and laughing. I love spending time with children especially my nephews and niece. Children bring me a lot of joy, but also a lot of heart break and that heartbreak inspires me to want to help children. I love experiencing new adventures especially the outdoors and children often make it fun because they ask a lot of questions about what they see. I am inspired by a child's innocent curiosity. I love listening to stories. My friends describe me as 'a good listener' or 'patient'. I enjoy reading about the bigger pictures of life and connecting the dots back to people. I am creative and open, and I think ideas are important, but I also think people are more important.

I am inspired by people who have stories of hope because I believe there is hope during darkness, despair and shame in our

broken world. I value empathy and kindness in others, and I am inspired by new ideas that make the future look bright. I am inspired by people who do courageous things to make the world and this earth better for humanity.

Recently I have been able to witness a community come together and support, feed and donate necessities to a settlement that burnt down. That is inspiring to me and those small victories is what I want to steward in the spaces I find myself.

I am involved in volunteering for an organization called The Seedfund. They are a non-profit organization that helps an informal settlement on Malacca Road in Durban North. The ways in which the organization help the individuals is through food drives, supporting the children's education by providing lunch, transport, and school fees and disaster management. The organization has grown and now they have a small pre-school alongside their homework centre. I have been a volunteer at the homework centre teaching foundation English (Neema). Their primary aim is to bring hope and a better future to the children at Malacca.

PERSONAL PROFILE



I have also been involved with helping sort donations and pack relief food packages especially during the Covid 19 pandemic and recent fires.

The PGCE program would benefit me in many ways. It will help me to learn subjects that I will apply in my teaching practices and add to my Science and Math knowledge. It would help me gain more experience teaching in a classroom setting as well as learning teaching methods that would help me apply to my teaching. This is all valuable on my path to becoming a better teacher.

There are various ways I would like to impact the lives of the children I will teach. I would like to impact the way children see their abilities through creating a space of acceptance and love in my teaching. I hope that one day I can work in a space where I can teach children and help them to learn even if their parents cannot afford it. I want my teaching to not only happen in a classroom at a school but to reach upliftment programs and NPO projects in South Africa. Becoming a teacher fits alongside my dream to work in an NPO space as a teacher and not only

bring hope, joy, and power to children but sustainable societal change through education.

My academic achievements to date include receiving an Honours Degree in Oceanography and completing a Commercial Class 4 diving certificate. Prior to that I received the Dean's Merit Award upon completing my Undergraduate studies as well as receiving the Jubilee award in my University Residence.

My interests centre around nature, people, and learning. I love learning about people's stories and how they have come to be and where they find themselves in this journey of life. I also enjoy learning about the connection and responsibility we have toward the natural environment. Some of my favourite days have been ones that involve activities like diving, surfing, and paddling in the Ocean. Other activities that I spend time doing have a creative twist. I find myself painting and playing guitar often these days. I believe that everyone is creative and creating is a way of social reform, so I celebrate creative activities. My other interests include reading and studying the bible whether alone or in a group setting.

PERSONAL PROFILE



**Chantelle Alicia
Cloete**

ABOUT STUDENT

I love working with people. This is one of the reasons why I chose to study psychology. I am very confident and always make the best of everything.

I have an expressive personality and like the outdoors. I love reading, hiking and understanding the world around me.

I get inspired when someone helps another person without explanation and not giving up.

Life has no boundaries, and you can be and do whatever you want.

PERSONAL PROFILE



Name:	Chantelle
Surname:	Cloete
Reference:	CC100693
Gender:	Female
D.O.B.	10/06/1993
Nationality:	South African
Race:	Coloured
Programme:	PGCE
Start Year:	2021
Year of study:	1 st
Local City:	Cape Town

I love working with children, my goal one day is to become a qualified educational psychologist.

The reason I chose to do a PGCE is because I want to make a change in communities and help children develop to their full potential and to make sure that every child has an opportunity to be great and have access to all resources to build a future for themselves.

I want to be that educator that kids can come to for assistance.
I love finding new places and meeting new people.



ABOUT STUDENT

I enjoy nature and the outdoors as well as, understanding and helping people. I love animals and reading and enjoy teaching anyone. I'm inspired to make a difference to other's lives, my drive and courage inspires me. Life and God inspires me everyday

I've been involved in volunteer work at Valkenberg hospital and Cornerstone Institute, and I give my time to my elderly and sick parent.

Amanda Andreas

PERSONAL PROFILE



Name:	Amanda
Surname:	Andreas
Reference:	AA190585
Gender:	Female
D.O.B.	19/05/1985
Nationality:	South African
Race:	Coloured
Programme:	PGCE
Start Year:	2020
Year of study:	2nd
Local City:	Cape Town

I enjoy learning and I enjoy teaching what I know to others. I want to be an example to others, because I enjoy and need to help others. I will make a great impact as a teacher because

I am a caring and passionate person. I will make sure as a teacher that I am a great credit to my learners. Against all odds I was awarded at my first graduation ceremony. I have cared for my parent who has suffered from mental illness since I was a teenager.



Arantxa Hurling

ABOUT STUDENT

My name is Arantxa-Jose Hurling and I am 24 years old. I graduated from UWC two years ago. I also have a two year old daughter. My passion is Education and making it accessible to everyone. I'd love to specialise in Special Needs Education and I hope to be able to open my own learning centre one day.

I'd love to encourage students who are struggling with mainstream schooling and to provide them with the support they need. I also want to do career counselling and help adults obtain their matric qualification.

I consider myself a very happy and positive person. I love working hard and producing results I am proud of.

I have recognized that my passion is something that children need and they need to be made aware of. By pushing the importance of education, I hope to help children and adults realise that if you work hard and invest in your Education, not only are you opening doors for yourself, you are also investing in yourself.

PERSONAL PROFILE



Name:	Arantxa
Surname:	Hurling
Reference:	AH100996
Gender:	Female
D.O.B.	10/09/1996
Nationality:	South African
Race:	Coloured
Programme:	PGCE
Start Year:	2021
Year of study:	1st
Local City:	Cape Town

The most important thing about life that inspires me, is that we wake up to a new day which brings us new opportunities and we can always be better than we were the previous day. Currently, I am unemployed. I do tutoring to help pay for the expenses of my child. I have put my skills to the test and have helped place one female in a college fully subsidized by the government. I have also provided career counselling to three Matric learners by helping them research courses and degrees they are interested in.

I also tutor 5 primary school learners, 2 high school learners and I home school a child with dyslexia, while he is waiting to be placed at his school of skills. This degree would provide me with the knowledge I need about how the schooling system works and how I can improve it in my own school. It would also allow me to pursue my dreams of becoming a Teacher and providing learners with the encouragement they need. I also would love to teach them about how valuable Education is and how they need to work hard to be independent and rise above any circumstances they may have.

PERSONAL PROFILE



I'd love to start my learning centre as soon as possible and to also have workshops for parents who have children with learning disabilities. I am hoping that this would provide them with the knowledge and patience they need to have with their children. Give an outline of any recent achievements, interests and activities outside of the proposed field of study. When the pandemic hit South Africa and schools were closed, I started my own online business where I provide learners with exercises and activities related to their curriculum. I went onto the website of the Department of Basic Education and started making workbooks which corresponded with it. I also managed to obtain a certificate in Foundations in Teaching Early Childhood development.



Noreen Olivia Banda

ABOUT STUDENT

I have graduated with BA Psychology at Cornerstone Institute in 2019. I am particularly good at communicating and building relationships with people. I have a great interest in media as I am a part time radio host, voice over and performing artist. My responsibility is to motivate and encourage young people to make positive life choices. I am academically motivated and would like to go into educational psychology field after completion of my BA Honours degree.

What inspires me about life is the desire to be the best and not become stagnant in my position in life. I believe in continuous learning and being successful in what I do. Another thing that inspires me is helping people and seeing positive changes taking place after having successfully giving them advice and being an inspiration for them.

I am a volunteer and part of an organisation called Youth Alive.

PERSONAL PROFILE



Name:	Noreen Olivia
Surname:	Banda
Reference:	NB100991
Gender:	Female
D.O.B.	10/09/1991
Nationality:	South African
Race:	Black
Home Language:	English
Programme:	BA Hons Psychology
Start Year:	2020
Year of study:	2nd
Local City:	Cape Town

We have annual Christian youth gatherings; we also do community upliftment by having church services and encouraging young people who are struggling with life challenges and finding it hard to survive on their own. Part of the youth alive movement is helping people by giving them food and clothes through donations. My reason for choosing my honours degree is to become academically inclined and to use my knowledge as a foundation to help young people when they need advice and career guidance. I would like to become an educational psychologist when I have completed my honours degree. I would like to inspire young people who feel demotivated and those who have no goals in life to become positive and hard working. They should know that the situation they find themselves in does not form them.

They need to know that they have the ability to step out of their current life situations and I would like to be an example of someone who did not have the finances, but still managed to step out of their life situation and make a success of her life

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