

Most Outstanding Student Leader in a Society - Thamsanqa Mahlangu

A nominee must have done outstanding work in his/her CSO. Furthermore, a nominee must have made an outstanding contribution towards community development/social responsibility project, and finally, a nominee must have made a significant difference to the running of their CSO.

This nominee has gone beyond the call of duty as a student leader. Under this student's leadership the Ndebele students association has soared and reached for greater heights and even took home the newcomer of the year award at the 2018 student leadership awards. His work has transcended the borders of Wits University as the NSA now has branches in five South African universities. He also splits his work between Gauteng and Mpumalanga. With regards to the former he is dedicated to uniting all the Ndebele students on campus and helping them alleviate the student challenges with initiative such as Ndebele Fridays which happens every week and is aimed at promoting the 'each one teach one principle'. He is also a part of the *ken-do generation program* that assists matric learners with career planning. In Mpumalanga he has undertaken the task of putting previously neglected communities at the forefront by promoting education as well as instilling a sense of pride for the Ndebele language amongst the people. He was instrumental in the negotiations for the introduction of the Ndebele language in schools around Delmas which is set to take place in 2020. Like all great leaders, the recipient of this award is aware that good interaction with the general public is of utmost importance and that is why he took the liberty to teach himself five of the most commonly spoken languages in South Africa.

Most Outstanding Society Project/Initiative - South African Union of Jewish Students

A nominee must have made an outstanding contribution towards a community development or social responsibility project and lastly, a nominee must also have come up with a project or initiative that has a lasting impact on or off campus.

This CSO is a true definition of impeccable consistency, having won last year's award for CSO of the year based on their commitment toward initiating and delivering impactful projects. They went on to bigger and better things for the year 2019. Ensuring a holistic strategy comprising of academic, religious and community-outreach based programmes and events, which include but are not limited to:

- A tour to Constitution Hill with Alan Fine who rebelled against the Apartheid regime as a trade unionist.

- Leadership and skills development workshop to ensure that its constituents are equipped with the skills that they will need to drive change in the University
- Valentine's Day roses: A drive for the Wits Food Bank in association with the South African Women's Business Association which saw the Club and Society selling roses on campus to raise money towards the Food Bank
- Cash or Cans Drive for the Wits Food Bank which enabled them to raise R3 500 plus 50 non-perishable goods
- A visit to the home for the disabled where they gave out toiletries and provided light entertainment for the kids
- WITS Counselling and Career Development Unit to volunteer and raise awareness on mental health
- Education and Medical School campuses to create inclusivity on all the campuses and not just main campus.

Most Outstanding Society in the Religious Cluster – Uplifted Life

With its priority focused in uplifting previously disadvantaged individuals, this particular club and society has missioned to alleviate poverty through reaching out to Wits students as well as the community at large, by hosting study sessions, mentoring programs as well as entrepreneurial networking initiatives.

Notable projects hosted by the nominee include:

- SHIFT conference a conference aimed at solving the unemployment challenge South Africa currently faces on the 7th of September 2019. A partnership with the Wits Graduate Programme enabled this Club and Society to bring the conference to Wits University for the benefit of students at all grades, people who are currently employed and those seeking employment
- Wits Fashion show held at the SHIFT Conference which provided an opportunity for small startup businesses in the Arts to showcase their creations
- High school tutorials at Madibane High School to provide Math lessons to Grade 8 and 9 pupils

Most Outstanding Society in the Cultural Cluster - South African union of Jewish Students

This club and society clearly thrives for excellence and bringing about change. They have a strong sense of culture and are rooted in their ways and this is evident in the projects they have undertaken which include:

- Israel Awareness Week: An annual programme where they fostered an environment for informed debate and responsible dialogue.

- Events at the Holocaust and Genocide Center in response to the xenophobic attacks by way of engaging on the discourse of the *Dangers of Othering*.
- Daily prayer mornings where their constituents are given a space to express their religion openly.
- The promotion of their Purim, Jewish holiday; allowing for the expression of their culture and tradition to their constituents and other wits students.
- Pesach, a holiday which tells the story of the Jews exodus from Egypt and this holiday is commemorated by dinners called Seders where the story is told. The society organized host families for those who do not have their own family around due to distance.
- A Lunch and Learn weekly event where a Rabbi comes to talk to the students and the serving of kosher food takes place

Most Outstanding Society in the Social Cluster - ACTIVATE

Previously known as a “party” society, this club and society kicked off 2019 by rebranding its identity to an advocacy society for the LGBTQ+ rights on campus. In collaboration with the Wits Transformation Office, Gays and Lesbians in Memory (GALA), Annova Men’s Health, and Hoola Africa; the nominee created a platform to engage safely on issues pertaining to sexual development, sexual education, as well as anti-gender-based violence.

Notable completed projects include:

- The Ring of Silence Campaign aimed at transgender visibility, remembrance and activism;
- Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) seminar- the first of its kind sex health talk focused on the educating and distribution of safe sex material with the assistance of Men’s Health, a division of OUT.org
- Women who have Sex with Women (WSW) seminar
- Wits Pride 2019 – a full week dedicated to events and activities to celebrate and raise awareness on the queer culture

Most Outstanding Society in the Academic Cluster - Association of South Quantity Surveyors, Wits Student Chapter (asaqs wsc)

Having being the only student society of its kind in the country that is affiliated with the Association of South African Quantity Surveyors, the nominee, has managed to create a platform to provide a forum for its member and professionals in the industry; this is done to encourage networking by hosting discussions and debates with influential key note speakers in the industry.

Notable projects completed by this CSO include:

- “ASAQS Entrepreneurial workshop”
- “ASAQS WSC Women’s Spring Breakfast”
- “ASAQS WSC Clash of the CEM Societies fundraising initiative”

Most Outstanding Society in the Business Cluster - Association of Black Securities and Investment Professionals (ABSIP)

Through its progression as a student chapter, this society has managed to establish a sense of entrepreneurship and student development through inter-faculty collaborations and partnerships. Throughout the year they have created networking opportunities with notable industry leading firms, including but not limited to INSETA, PWC, SABC, ALLAN GREY, and SUGAR CREEK WEALTH which has resulted its member receiving bursaries, learnerships, and entrepreneurial support.

Events hosted include but not limited to:

- Induction launching in partnership with the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE)
- The Equity Research Drive Launch in partnership with Easy Equity
- The Financial Sector Transformation Forum

Most Outstanding New Society - MOOT Court

In its first year of existence, this CSO has surpassed all expectations. They have managed to obtain a membership of over 170 students. Hosted 3 competitions which have involved high court judges, senior council and many of the societies most esteemed legal practitioners. They are dedicated to women empowerment as they have insured a high rate of participation from female candidates in their competitions and also prompted women in the law school to take up advocacy and transform to tackle male dominated image of the profession. The recipients of this award have expanded their footprint by providing students with pupillage and clerkship in countries outside of South Africa and by competing in international competitions in an effort to expose their student base to areas of law which they may not get an opportunity to engage within the classroom.

Their work has also been recognized by the former Minister of Justice Michael Masuthu who has commended their excellence at these international competitions. In addition to all the above, the society is keeping up with current technological advancements as they are aspiring to be the 1st to stimulate online litigation which will be an answer to the 4th Industrial Revolution effect on law.

Notable achievements by this CSO include:

Participating in three international competitions;

- Jessup Moot competition (Washington, USA)
- Oxford Price media Moot competition (Oxford, UK)
- International Criminal Court Moot Competition (Hague, Netherlands)

Most Outstanding Faculty Council - Medical School Council

This council has succeeded in creating a transformative culture through promoting unity with the Faculty of Health Science and the University as a whole. Through its collaborations with Discovery Health, the Wits Surgical Society, Wits Transformation Office and Wits SAMSA, the council has increased its reach across campuses with notable projects aimed at engaging with other Faculties, empowering woman within and outside the borders of the South Africa, as well as the LGBTQI+.

Through its endeavors, the council has hosted the events including but not limited to:

- The Health Science Sports Day; Encouraging students to take part in physical activity as a means of destressing, team building and platform for student interaction of Health Sciences students from different degrees and years of study
- The Health Science Pride Day; the first ever Health Science Pride Day was hosted by the Council to celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community
- The Alumni Gala Dinner; A social event aimed at raising funds for final year students by pledging R10 000-00 from the council and asking the public to match the pledge.
- The Date with a Doctor event to name a few...

Most Outstanding School Council - School of Economics and Business Sciences Council

A nominee in this category needed to follow all University procedures related to the operation of the Council without incident as well as make an outstanding contribution towards a community development/social responsibility project.

Aimed at celebrating women while inspiring young women at university to aspire to greatness, the School of Economics and Business Sciences (SEBS) secured ABSA as a sponsor to host ABSA Woman's Day Breakfast (previously known as SEBS student council breakfast). The breakfast served to celebrate successful woman as well as advise women on dominating in a male-dominated corporate environments. With over 150 guests attendance as well as key note speakers including Ms Machba (PWC Southern Africa CEO), Mr Ngobeni (Wimpy franchise owner and Entrepreneur), Ms Visser (owner of LifeCompuTech) and Ms. Walaza (Director of Kliptown youth program; the breakfast was a great success.

Other notable projects include:

- PPS financial opportunity seminar;
- ABSA Woman's Day Breakfast;
- Nestle internship graduate program.
- Standard Bank pad drive;

- Mika Children's home stationery donation.

Most Outstanding House Committee - Ernest Oppenheimer House committee

House Committees can be considered the life-blood of a university residence. They are responsible for championing the development of the students that reside in their respective residences, as such house committees oversee the integration of various activities within the residence, and aim to holistically develop students within their living and learning environment. A nominee must have played an outstanding role in residence life and that of its house.

This house Committee sought to bring a balance between academics, sports and entertainment to their residence and they managed to fulfill their goals through the following initiatives which include but are not limited to:

- Speaker Series in an effort to promote healthy debate on various topics within the residence. The speakers chosen were those who were already in the workplace and in a good position to advise and motivate the first years
- Big brother mentorship for first year students which ensures that first year students are able to cope with the transition from high school to university and having a brother whom they can rely on for advice.
- Swimming and running club which are initiatives founded by the sports office to promote health amongst the residents and also give students an opportunity to learn how to swim.
- Community service and charity work where they participated in the *IN HER SHOES* campaign and donated pads. The work of service resulted in them winning the competition for the most sanitary pads donated by a residence. Other charity initiatives include cleaning Park Town and donating clothes to the homeless as part of EOH cares
- Academic dinner which celebrates academic excellence by awarding students who obtained distinctions in their respective fields right along with the top 10 academic achievers. This event was conjoined with the sisters' at Sunnyside Residence to bring the two genders together. The dinner managed to have a greater impact amongst the students.

Most Outstanding Student Leader at a University Residence - Botsisang Sebakeng

This student has a passion to fight for marginalized groups and always puts the needs of others before her own. She is a leader in the true sense of the word and always seeks to find solutions for students

Not only does she exemplify good leadership qualities but she also takes initiative, engages robustly in problem solving and has developed an incredible rapport with University staff, allowing her to continue fulfilling her passion of fighting for students.

This charismatic and dynamic leader has managed to ensure that all ARSC deadlines are met with excellence.

Sports Student of the Year - Sasha Nzvathu

A nominee must have displayed the criteria of all award categories with exemplary leadership on and off the sports field.

This nominee is no stranger to hard work and determination, having immersed herself in various university activities from the onset of her academic career. She has worked her way up the ranks by starting out as a chess media and communications officer in 2016/2017 and moved on to being Wits Sports Council Executive Secretary 2017/2018 and finally the first Black female Wits Sports Council Chairperson 2018/2019.

In all these years she has used her titles to bring about change in the spheres she was in. In her time as part of the sports council she introduced five new awards and sparked tough conversations that were necessary but not traditionally discussed by the Wits sports council. Her unwavering support of sports men and women extends beyond the office and she uses all her free time to attend all the sporting events on campus and share their achievements on her social media platforms. The recipient of this award has played a tremendous role as part of the CSO SASCO gender office where she utilized her skills to fight for women's rights and improving the profile of women's sport at the University. It seems like everything she touches turns to gold as she was Vice Chairperson for the INALA Forum 2017/18 which went on to win the Social Innovator Award at the 2018 student leadership awards. True to her benevolent nature, she believes in offering her time to those who need it the most and this is why she is a volunteer in various organizations such as the Wits Citizen and Community Outreach programme which offers food to students on campus and ASSIST which offers tutoring to learners in Alexandra.

Champion of Service Award – joint winners Khathutshelo Nemadidi (Bafui) and Persley Lefaphoma

The nominee must be a committed and dedicated volunteer. Giving his or her time and energy to better the lives of others. This nominee must show leadership through his or her volunteerism and must be champion for civic work among Witsies.

The winners in this category have gone far beyond the call of duty in their community service at the Wits Citizenship and Community Outreach office. They are student volunteers for the Wits Food Programme where they work regularly and consistently. They work in both the Masidleni Daily Meal Project and the Wits Food Bank. They are always available and willing to answer the call of duty.

The WCCO recipients have shown great commitment to ensuring that the projects run smoothly by making themselves available to carry out the tasks of an often demanding area of work.

The recipients are well-liked by their fellow volunteers, are able to assert themselves and have commanded respect amongst his peers.

Social Innovator Award - Wits Amnesty

Nominees must have creatively used ideas to respond to a social challenge and must show commitment to the process of developing and implementing the project.

The winner in this category worked very hard to establish a functional student communal kitchen. This individual has persevered for months despite the challenges of getting students to prepare their own meals in the kitchen. The winner has ensured that the communal kitchen is stocked and accessible for food preparation sometimes to her own detriment.

The winner's dedication and commitment to the functioning of this innovative solution for student hunger is indeed admirable.

The student communal kitchen is a vibrant, fun space where students can learn from each other to cook food. The kitchen relies on the fresh produce from the Wits gardens.

The SRC Presidency Award to the Most Outstanding Society - History Makers

Wits History Makers is a recognized society which aims to address African challenges by providing financial education and skills development programs to the youth. Furthermore, the club empowers students with skills that are normally acquired through the education system,

whereby, the students will exit the institution with not only an academic qualification, but with entrepreneurial skills. They successfully held a seminar which was aimed at empowering the youth to make smart monetary decisions whilst in university and start building generational wealth from a young age by investing, having multiple income streams and initiating their own businesses. This is to also address reducing the high unemployment rate in South Africa. The classes are open to all Wits students and non-Wits students who study in and around the Braamfontein district. The majority of the students have the wrong assumption that for you to be an investor you need to have huge amounts of money, and the club has managed to dispel that myth.

2019 Achievements include:

Weekly classes offered from the second week of February 2019 until the 30th of August to empowered students on the following:

- different methods of investing (e.g. Top-down Approach, Bottom-up Approach, etc),
- how to evaluate companies,
- how to evaluate financial statements,
- how to assess if a company is over/undervalued,
- different types of ratios and what each one of them means with respect to the entity (e.g. debt ratio, P/E ratios, etc) and many more other factors based on buying and selling of Shares.
- how to buy shares,
- the different types of shares,
- the different types of investments that they could go for (e.g. Growth Investing, Value Investing) ,the different sectors and how to deal with each one of them(e.g. Retail, Banking, etc)
- Property investments (it is worth noting that more than 40% of the students who have been attending the classes have started investing in the JSE market. This will enable them to start a career in Investments and have multiple income streams.
- Impact of the fourth Industrial Revolution on Financial Markets
- identifying entrepreneurial opportunities in emerging economies

Most Outstanding Contribution made by an SRC Member

The first recipient of this award, ***Sisanda Mbolekwa***, took office on 1 November 2018 with a mandate to fulfill the plight of students and advance the needs of her constituency. The year has shown her not only growth in the servitude of students, but also in a personal sense. The role of presidency is one that is broadly defined, with no exact documented day-to-day duties,

but she knew that she was trusted with being the captain of the ship that was the duly elected SRC 2018/19 and would commit herself to ensure that the ship was functional. As President, she chose her focus areas in the realm of Academics; Gender and Transformation which were dear to her activism and supported them extensively.

The primary platform that a President is given is one that takes place on Welcome day and many might say that the words uttered on that day, either make or break a presidency. She stood on the podium to reassure families and reaffirm first years that herself and the team would indeed be their first line of defense at the institution. The first great task at hand was that seen during January 2019, with the accommodation and fees related crisis that characterized the registration period. Like any good leader, if one's cries are falling on deaf ears in the boardroom, you are forced to revolt and take it to the streets. She, alongside her collective, led the Wits Hunger strike and initiated the One Student One Bed programme, which later resulted in Wits coming to the table and adding an additional R4 million to the R10 million for hardship fund to be solely dedicated to accommodation, and the provincial government donating buildings for student housing. Another victory from the protest was the institution allowing students owing R100 000 and below to register and— a feat which had never been seen, with the norm being R10 000.

The next couple of months were dedicated to assisting portfolio holders where they needed assistance and preparing for and attending committee meetings such as forum, senate, council and the like – of which the team has been commended on numerous occasions for their decorum and strategies of lobbying and engaging. Something as insignificant as the president insisting that SRC members wear full uniform to meetings has assisted in not only uplifting the reputation of the SRC, but that preparation and presentability has translated into the work ethic.

She organized different student grouping which emerged after the death of UCT student, Uyinene. The country saw an uprising of young against gender based violence, it was a difficult period which required sound leadership to contain the animosity and division on campus. She displayed exceptional leadership qualities by merging all the different grouping and led from

the front. It was not easy trying to be the glue that holds a collective together, but with a lot of support from the deputy president and many others in her team, she has ended her term on a good note.

The second recipient of this award is no stranger to the Student Leadership Awards, having accolades which date back to 2015 and 2017. **Palesa Mofokeng** has filled a number of leadership roles in various structures at the University over the past number of years, growing and cultivating her leadership capacity. She displays admirable leadership qualities in the manner in which she is always willing to serve others.

Furthermore she is a young leader who speaks and remains rooted in her convictions, which has been evident even in her role of representing the students' interests in Senate meetings.

1. She has made valuable inputs in a number of key university strategic initiatives such as;
2. The Teaching and Learning Plan
3. The 2018 Global Teachers Institute Axis Summit Forum
4. The 2019 Africa World Youth Summit
5. The ASI Thought Laboratory
6. The NADEV: Women in Leadership Conference

Her ability to engage on topical issues and contribute profoundly to the transformative issues which need to be tackled in South Africa and beyond truly make her a remarkably transformative leader.

Her passion is also extended to business and it is for this reason that she continues to attend workshops and student initiatives which speak on the theme of youth entrepreneurship. Some of these initiatives include the Africa Management Initiative: Grow Your Business programme which provided tools, tips and tricks on how one can grow their business in any economic climate.

She is a well-seasoned leader who courageously addresses issues of inequality, fairness and justice. A servant leader, an advocate and embodiment of excellence, who has found and affirmed her voice in the academic, political and social space.

The third recipient of this award, Sibongile Sibeko, is part of several hearings in the Gender Equity Office, where both students and staff members have been investigated, as well as part of policy reforms to ensure that hearings are facilitated faster and that the outcome is more transparent to the greater university community, while still protecting the identity and dignity of victims .

1. She engaged with University management and other stakeholder with regards to the financial and accommodation crises faced by students on campus. In this regard, Sibongile was tasked with assisting vulnerable female students with finding accommodation through the Dean of Students and WCCO. These female students were not initially on the Hardship Fund list, but are students that have specifically approached the office with concerns of safety and sexual harassment resulting from homelessness. Thus far, approximately 42 female students have been placed through this process.
2. She worked with the Gender Equity Office to ensure that private security guards who were found to have sexually harassed female students during and after protests are being investigated. Some of the security guards have been reported and charged by SAPS, and others are facing internal disciplinary action.
3. Engagements with regard to the capacity issues faced by GEO have started with the Sexual Harassment Committee, as well as working on a policy with the Chairperson of the Sexual Harassment Committee on how to ensure that GEO processes are concluded quicker and more efficiently
4. Renaming of Chamber of Mines Building and Barnato Residence, as well as other key spaces and buildings in the University is currently in progress with University naming committee. Multiple engagements with various student bodies and other constituencies have taken place through the Gender and Transformation Office
5. De-stress zones in November 2018 and June 2019.
6. Establishment of the 24-hour suicide hotline. She has also been in constant communication with the Dean of Students, CCDU and ICAS regarding increasing capacity at CCDU and the CHWS. At the moment, the suicide hotline is still functioning, and many students that called the line have been referred to both CCDU and Akeso on priority basis. Furthermore, we ensured that throughout the exam season as well as during the month of July (during deferred exams and results season), there will be increased capacity at CCDU. A mobile app will be launched by the end of the year, where students are able to request counselling or referral to hospitals and mental health institutions

7. Visits to residences, discussing issues around mental health, sex, safe sexual practices, sexuality and healthy relationships
8. In line with the goal of transformation of education, she was involved in processes to ensure that all students in the University, in all faculties and degrees, have to take an African language or a gender-related course as part of the requirements of completion of a degree. This will be implemented throughout the University by the 2022 academic year
9. She also been engaged with the University regarding various imagery and artwork on campus, and that all imagery should be representative of the demographic of the students in the University as well as the South African demographic at large. Currently, our main focus is imagery on buses and artwork in library and residences
10. Women's Day event in collaboration with Revlon
11. SRC gender sensitivity training with GALA (Gay and Lesbians Memory in Action) to educate the SRC on issues relating to gender and queer rights, as well as how to include marginalised bodies on campus through their various portfolios
12. Involved in engagements with the University as well as private accommodation providers with regard to providing transport for private residences in the Braamfontein area. Negotiations are still ongoing to extend this service to Parktown residences
13. Exhibition by non-governmental organisations in the gender sector in collaboration with GEO
14. Mental Health Awareness Day in collaboration with the South African Federation for Mental Health, CCDU and Akeso
15. Participated and collaborated in events hosted by Amnesty International and the School of Human and Community Development, which focused on gender-based violence, rape culture and mental health in the University, and how students can get involved in solving various issue faced by students on campus

The fourth and final recipient of this award is hard work and determination personified.

Faatima Laher is a driven individual who is fully committed to making the world a better place. Her concern and care for her fellow man is something that has been evident in her tenure in

the Student Representative Council. She has served on numerous Law Student Council sub-committees and is an active member of two student associations. She has lead with objectivity, compassion and integrity in key student orientated committees such as the Student Discipline Committee, where she has contributed to the overall proper and efficient functioning of the committee.

As the SRC Legal Officer she has spearheaded the following;

1. The Know Your Rights drive- in which she gave a platform and an opportunity for students to become aware of their rights and the University's legal procedures
2. The acceptance of the amended University Pregnancy Policy
3. Assisted students with NSFAS appeals and Wits Readmissions Committee
4. Ensured the university's legal offices presence at the "Wits Am I Next" protest to highlight the scourge of Gender Based Violence.

To name a few...

Our final recipient is truly worthy of the honour and prestige that comes with this award.

Change Maker of the Year: Innovation and Entrepreneurship - Musa Maluleka

A nominee must have proof of the outstanding contribution work done in solving a problem in the community. A nominee must have dared to challenge the status quo by living their truth.

The recipient if this award is a Studentpreneur who participated in the first national Entrepreneurship Intervarsity spearheaded the Entrepreneurial Development in Higher Education (EDHE) in partnership with stakeholders from Higher Education institutions;

1. The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)
2. SAB Foundation
3. Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda)
4. Allan Gray Orbis Foundation
5. and the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA)

The recipient won the Entrepreneurship Intervarsity Competition in the category: General-Existing Business for his brain child **Disktjies**. Selling a South African soccer boot brand, with quality innovative, affordable designs that tailor for the local soccer stars.

Change Maker of the Year: Social Activism - Keitumetse Moutloatse

A nominee must have proof of the outstanding work done in solving a problem in the community. In addition a nominee must have dared to challenge the status quo by living their truth.

This nominee is a revolutionary student leader whose passion for women's rights has driven her to mobilize and organize social movements which have impacted the whole country at large. One of these movements include fees must fall where she played a pivotal role in ensuring that the movement goes beyond Wits university. The leader has also founded the black radical feminist group named Black Women's Caucus in response to the unprecedented rates of femicide in the country. The BWC was instrumental in ensuring the first national summit against gender based violence through the office of the Presidency. This alone exemplifies her exceptional problem solving skills to the challenges faced by the general public. This student leader has expanded the movement by pioneering two additional initiatives. Black Girls in Caucus and #Bereka Mosadi. Black Girls in Caucus is the high school version of BWC. She uses these platforms to teach school children about gender based violence and bullying. The recipient of this award is also an intern at the Gender Equity Office as she believes that in order to fully address the crisis of the gender based violence in this country, one needs a multi-modal approach.

Leadership positions she has undertaken so far:

- President of the Black Women's Caucus
- Board member at the Centre for family health initiative operating from Nigeria which is committed to the protection and well-being of the families in Nigeria and Africa as a whole
- Coordinator for Shayisifuba: we demand a feminist government under Oxfam South Africa

Vice Chancellor's Student Leader of the Year Award - Sisanda Mbolekwa

This student took office 1st of November in 2018 with a mandate to fulfill the plight of students and advance the needs of her constituency. The year has shown her not only growth in the servitude of students, but also in a personal sense. The role of presidency is one that is broadly defined, with no exact documented day-to-day duties, but she knew that she was trusted with being the captain of the ship that was the duly elected SRC 2018/19 and would commit herself to ensure that the ship was functional. As President, she chose her focus areas in the realm of Academics; Gender and Transformation which were dear to her activism and supported them extensively.

The primary platform that a President is given is one that takes place on Welcome day and many might say that the words uttered on that day, either make or break a presidency. She stood on the podium to reassure families and reaffirm first years that herself and the team would indeed be their first line of defense at the institution. The first great task at hand was that seen during January 2019, with the accommodation and fees related crisis that characterized the registration period. Like any good leader, if one's cries are falling on deaf ears in the boardroom, you are forced to revolt and take it to the streets. She, alongside her collective, led the Wits Hunger strike and initiated the One Student One Bed programme, which later resulted in Wits coming to the table and adding an additional R4 million to the R10 million for hardship fund to be solely dedicated to accommodation, and the provincial government donating buildings for student housing. Another victory from the protest was the institution allowing students owing R100 000 and below to register and – a feat which had never been seen, with the norm being R10 000.

The next couple of months were dedicated to assisting portfolio holders where they needed assistance and preparing for and attending committee meetings such as forum, senate, council and the like – of which the team has been commended on numerous occasions for their decorum and strategies of lobbying and engaging. Something as insignificant as the president insisting that SRC members wear full uniform to meetings has assisted in not only uplifting the reputation of the SRC, but that preparation and presentability has translated into the work ethic.

Sisanda organized different student grouping which emerged after the death of UCT student, Uyinene. The country saw an uprising of young against gender based violence; it was a difficult period which required sound leadership to contain the animosity and division on campus. She displayed exceptional leadership qualities by merging all the different grouping and led from the front. It was not easy trying to be the glue that holds a collective together, but with a lot of support from the deputy president and many others in her team, she has ended her term on a good note.

Abe Bailey Award - Mikaela Oosthuizen

The objective of the Abe Bailey Travel Bursary is to broaden the views of young South Africans by enabling outstanding South African students or junior lecturers who show exceptional leadership qualities and a strong service ethic. Furthermore, the intention of this bursary is to:

- Effect greater understanding and co-operation among those with various language and cultural backgrounds;
- Foster enterprise, commitment and effective participation in a common future; and
- Promote South African unity.

The recipient of this award is currently enrolled for her Masters: Media Studies. She has proved to be a positive and determined recipient of the award who has had wide exposure to public speaking and competing on the national stage.

Her community outreach involvement includes being the Founding Chairperson of the Business Women's Association Student Chapter at the Nelson Mandela University, which

aims to advance the agenda of female entrepreneurship and leadership in the business and corporate space. She has also participated in motivational talks at various high schools in various provinces as a National Youth Ambassador.

She has also been involved in a number of leadership programmes, namely:

- Young African Leaders initiative (YALI)
- Nelson Mandela University Pinnacle Leadership Programme

Special Nominations

GOLDEN KEY

In the Special Nominations category, the recipient worthy of a special acknowledgement is a society committed to an ethos of excellence. The University of the Witwatersrand has one of the strongest Chapters of the Golden Key International Honour Society in South Africa and the chapter has made a concerted effort to host several activities and events throughout the year for their members and all Wits students. These projects, which offer opportunities for professional and personal development, support the Golden Key pillars of Academic Excellence, Leadership Development, and Community Service.

Their annual Service drives in partnership with Holy Trinity Catholic Church provided a much an opportunity for the chapter and its members to be of service to their community in line with the being committed to service, the various drives have always proved to be an opportune time to rekindle their common desire to do good and to help the less fortunate in practical ways, motivated by the legacy of the likes of the great Nelson Rohilhla Mandela left to future generations.

Their flagship event is the annual Thinker's Symposium which offers a platform for students and speakers to discuss and address social issues faced by our nation, such as race, transformation, equality, and nation-building.

The chapter was yet again awarded the Gold Chapter Standing for their 2018/2019 work.

It is evident that The University of the Witwatersrand Golden Key Chapter has continued in their legacy of excellence this year.

EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAMME

In the category of Special Nominations is the 2019 Cohort of the Emerging Leaders Programme. The Emerging Leaders Programme is a flagship program of the Development and Leadership Unit which aims to nurture leaders, allowing them to unearth their potential to become catalysts of change.

The programme is aimed at “Enhancing the leadership capacity of students by grooming a breed of leaders who will lead without a title.” The Emerging Leaders Programme is a unique opportunity designed to equip students with the insights and tools to master adaptive leadership and make a positive impact in society.

This group of students embarked on a year-long leadership training program where they participated in various personal development workshops, attended the Winter Leadership Camp and underwent training on Design Thinking. As part of the program, this exceptional group of talented individuals were responsible for facilitating their own charity outreach programs where they also raised over R12, 000.00 for charity; additionally, these students have set up their own initiatives aimed at projects ranging from Education to Climate Change and have launched their own websites and YouTube channels to address their various issues. They have successfully come up with impactful solutions through the effective use of technology and innovation.

This is a group of student leaders who have made it their mission to create awareness and positive impact in society by focusing on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a collection of 17 global goals.

This Emerging Leaders Project was built on the principles and resolutions of “The Future We Want which also translated to the “Wits Community We Want”.

FORBES 30 UNDER 30 - Sakhile Madonko

The third recipient of the Special Nominations category has had a yearning for entrepreneurship from a young age. He has explored various opportunities, from a sweet-selling business in Zimbabwe to founding a student café and restaurant in South Africa (at the David Webster residence to be precise).

He figured out the pitfalls SMEs experience that lead to failure, so decided to establish a business that would help them grow. The nominee was founded in 2015 and provides strategy, consulting, business development and growth advisory for small businesses.

His business ventures have not been without their challenges. “The biggest struggle has been gaining the same ear one would land as an older entrepreneur. Due to my age, many business ventures I had were affected because I was deemed too young,” he says.

“The only way we could prove ourselves was to work twice as hard and constantly prove ourselves despite the constant push-back in business from seemingly more seasoned entrepreneurs in the industry.”

It seems he has finally cracked the formula. He has worked with a growing number of companies in the SADC region and partnered with the University of the Witwatersrand’s Development and Leadership Unit and consulted with over 80 students running businesses. He employs four permanent staff and two consultants who regularly work with him, as well as interns who focus on business analysis. They have also launched an accelerator that helps students start and run viable businesses to help alleviate unemployment rates.

The nominee and his team hope to build 1,000 sustainable businesses by 2030. The Star named him one of the stars to watch for in 2018 alongside musician Sho Madjozi and other notable South Africans and in July 2019 was announced as one of the Forbes Africa 30 under 30 in the Business category.

GLOBAL CITIZEN FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

The fourth and last recipient is special award is an acknowledgement of a cohort of thirty students who participated in the Global Citizens for Social Justice Winter School programme during the vacation in June. This is a week long programme hosted by the WCCO in partnership with the Auwal Socio-Economic Research Institute. The programme aims to contributing to the development of citizens who can become prominent leaders in government and civil society. Underpinning the program is a strong emphasis on values such as pluralism, justice, equality, integrity, excellence and valor.

The programme allowed students living and interacting in a global world to reflect on their roles in, and viewpoints about, an interconnected society. The programme helped students

develop their own sense of personal, social, and corporate responsibility to their local and global communities.