



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

Council
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SPIRIT OF '68

IMPACT REPORT 2023

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A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO **DONORS** **WHO CONTRIBUTED** **TO THE SPIRIT OF '68** **BURSARY FUND FOR** **UCT POSTGRADUATE** **STUDENTS**



SARAH ARCHER, Executive Director,
Development and Alumni

The events of August 1968 where protesting students staged a sit-in in Bremner to show their solidarity with Archie Mafeje, who was appointed as senior lecturer in Social Anthropology at UCT, being denied his post by the racist apartheid government, sparked a powerful protest movement in South Africa.

At a 40 year reunion of the veterans of the sit-in, in 2008, the group decided to establish a bursary fund **'The Spirit of '68'** to support UCT students engaging in good research on causes and cures of social exclusion. This bursary fund has now run for 10 years and has

provided support to 22 students doing postgraduate study. For many of these students, the financial support, while relatively small, made a huge difference in supporting the practicalities of their research and giving them much needed opportunities. This has generated a great deal of goodwill and we would love to harness this spirit of goodwill across the globe with our alumni...

Thank you to each of you who contributed to the fund in amounts both small and great – as can be seen from the testimonies of the recipients – your funding has provided a spring-board for each of these students.



THE 1968 SIT-IN

“The ability to resist discrimination and other forms of inequity rests in large part on independence of mind and the power of imagination.” Raphie Kaplinsky

RAPHIE KAPLINSKY, is a leader of the 1968 sit-in, which defended the appointment of Archie Mafeje to UCT academic staff against the apartheid government’s demand to withdraw the job offer because he was black. A watershed event in UCT’s history occurred in August 1968 – 600 UCT students marched from Jameson Hall (now Sarah Baartman) to the Bremner Administration building and embarked on a 9-day sit-in to protest the apartheid state’s racist university

policies and, the Council overturning the appointment of black scholar and social anthropologist Archie Mafeje to a post as a senior lecturer, after pressure from the government to do so. The protesting students 9-day peaceful sit-in occupation of Bremner resulted in starkly dividing opinion and was front-page news around South Africa.

The late Emeritus Professor Francis Wilson’s 1968 editorial in Outlook magazine read, *“there can be few events which for a limited time, at least, have enjoyed support ranging all the way from Radio Albania through the students of Britain and Dar es Salaam to the Wynberg*

Youth branch of the United Party. The depth of opposition too, was surprising. The students broke no law, they never moved off the private property of the university, they continued their studies and they bathed regularly”.

The editorial indicates that they faced the threat of police intervention, heavy criticism from private individuals and a shocking attempt, fortunately forestalled by commendable police action, by Stellenbosch students, to use violence in breaking up the sit-in. In 2008, at a 40th reunion of the UCT veterans and friends who had participated in the sit-in in 1968, the group got together to remember what they had shared during those 9 days, and they decided that they needed to do more than reminisce. They committed themselves to setting up a fund, **‘The Spirit of ‘68’** to support UCT students engaging in good research on causes and cures of social exclusion, in all disciplines, so as to increase knowledge, independence of mind and the power of imagination. The fund they set up was open to any student registered for a PhD or Masters’ degree at UCT, irrespective of their nationality, race or gender. Martin Plaut, one of the veterans commented, *“We dedicated ourselves to try to raise further funding for our modest ‘Spirit of 68’ bursary, and also to upholding the principles of a non-racial university; educating and serving the whole community.”*

SINCE ITS INCEPTION
IN 2013, THE FUND HAS
MADE AWARDS TO AND
SUPPORTED 23 GRADUATE
RESEARCH STUDENTS IN
THEIR POSTGRADUATE
ACADEMIC JOURNEY, ON
TOPICS INCLUDING:

- Social causes of low rates of cervical screening among black South African women
- Youth drama and rites of passage in Khayelitsha.
- Family caregivers’ responses to sexuality and relationships support needs of young adults with intellectual disabilities.
- Mobile phone use by urban refugees for empowerment:
- Informal women traders in Cape Town: a study of agency
- Investigation of pregnant women’s diet to determine type 2 diabetes prevalence
- Difference and diversity in Cape Town: bridging the social divide for spatially segregated Cape Town.
- An exploration of Lavender Hill youth’s pathways to employment
- Child and adolescent mental health services in the Western Cape

The Spirit of 68 bursary fund has worked steadily, with a committee of sit-in veterans, the Development & Alumni Department at UCT, as well as the UCT Trust in UK. Over R220,000 in awards have been made and when an audit was done, it was ascertained that all but one of the students had graduated successfully.



THEN AND NOW: COMMENTS BY SIT-IN VETERANS AT THE 50-YEAR REUNION IN 2018

ADRIAN GUELKA, a veteran of the sit-in and professor of comparative politics at Queen's University Belfast commented at a 50-year reunion of the sit-in, in 2018, that it wasn't an isolated event and that 1968 was a tumultuous year worldwide.

From the Tet Offensive in Vietnam to the Battle of Grosvenor Square in London, the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy, the Paris student revolt and the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia, to the Black Power salute at the Mexico Olympics and the first hijacking of an El Al jet by Palestinians, there were powerful portents of global change. *"It was a turning point in the world. And why it [1968] attracted so*

many interpretations,” Guelke said. That year saw the emergence of a host of student leaders who were “megaphones” of a larger movement that included workers: Daneil Cohn-Bendit and Alan Geismar, France; Tariq Ali, Great Britain; Karl-Dietrich Wolff, West Germany; Jan Kavan, Czechoslovakia; and Steve Biko in South Africa. Guelka commented that “youth has remained a powerful driver of change”. He noted the election of very young leaders today such as Emmanuel Macron on France, Jacinda Ardern in New Zealand and Leo Varadkar in Ireland. “Countries affected by the 2008 financial meltdown, paved the way for young leader untainted by policies gone wrong. But chillingly, while the 60s gave rise to the new left, what has emerged post-Obama, is the new right”, said Guelka.

KEITH GOTTSCHALK, another veteran of the sit-in and former head of political science at the University of the Western Cape, remembered the oppressiveness of the 60s in South Africa, where every book on his reading list prescribed for political science students was banned by the apartheid government. *“Communists and non-whites were banned from teaching. You couldn’t criticise university management”* he said. But the students and the country now benefit from a strong Constitution and Bill of Rights, ensuring academic

freedom and freedom of speech. Keith received the President’s silver order of Ikhamanga in 2023.

MARTIN PLAUT, a senior research fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London, was only 18 at the time of the sit-in. The issues of the time – gay, feminist and black rights – became the guiding light for his generation and over the years had been *“slowly, painfully moved forward”*. He commented that *“none have been resolved. But compared to where we were 50 years ago, there has been something of a transformation.”* He said however that the rise of the far-right was concerning – evidenced and embodied by past US president Donald Trump, Russian president Vladimir Putin, attitudes towards immigrants in the wake of far-reaching instability in the Middle East – and growing neo-fascism, as seen in Germany. *“The ideals unlocked after 1968 are on the retreat,”* he said. *“The values of the Enlightenment, of reason over prejudice, science over dogma and superstition, are under threat of what’s coming...”* *We must not retreat, as the alternative for Germany suggests, to the dark forests of the mind. We must embrace the new while not abandoning the old. Reject narrow nationalism and parochialism and views that see security in restricting national cultures.”*

REFLECTING ON THE '68 SIT-IN AND WHERE WE ARE NOW: BY KEITH GOTTSCHALK, A PARTICIPANT OF THE 1968 SIT-IN

August 2023 saw the 55th anniversary reunion of the 1968 sit-in protest at UCT, held to remind us of what happened when the appointment of the late Professor Archie Mafeje was rescinded.

This sit-in protest takes us back to the forgotten world of apartheid. The Afrikaner Nationalist Party had already extended the colour bar to students. It had become a crime for UCT to admit any students other than those classified white without a permit from the Government. Out of some 5 000

students then at UCT, the apartheid regime limited such permits to around two hundred Coloured and Indian students. They rejected every permit application from an African student.

The regime's next stage was to extend the whites-only colour bar to academic posts. UCT appointed Archie Mafeje as the best person for the post of senior lecturer in Social Anthropology. Mafeje had just graduated from Cambridge University with his doctorate. The then minister of education, Senator de Klerk





LEADING THE WAY TO BREMNER

(father of FW de Klerk), demanded that UCT rescind its appointment of a “Bantu”. After more such threats, the UCT Council backed down and revoked Mafeje’s appointment.

Liberal and radical students felt that the UCT Council should not do the regime’s dirty work themselves. Two mass meetings were held two weeks apart, appealing to Council. At the second mass meeting, over a thousand students

resolved to stage a sit-in protest in the UCT administration building, the Bremner building. We demanded that UCT Council re-appoint Mafeje. Led by Raphie Kaplinsky of the UCT Radical Students’ Society, and Duncan Innes, the incoming president of the National Union of SA Students (NUSAS), around 600 students crammed into the Council chamber, every committee room, and all foyers and passages in Bremner to start what became a nine-day protest. We

scrambled to collect sleeping bags and blankets. Sympathizers donated food, soap and toothbrushes.

Conservatives tried to smear the sit-in students as hippies taking a holiday. One cartoonist depicted them as children bunking lectures to slide down bannisters. The truth was that each morning hundreds of sit-inners walked to their lectures in upper campus, returning to the sit-in each afternoon. Sympathetic academics repeated inside the Bremner building in the afternoons their morning lectures in nine subjects ranging from Archaeology to isiXhosa. Some tutors did the same for tutorials. 156

academics signed a petition supporting us. Mike Popham saw to it that we were kept informed with daily cyclostyled newsletters. As the protesters, we organized a teach-in, where we gave daily lectures on many current topics from the Nigerian civil war to the US war in Vietnam. Each day, hundreds of sympathizing students would come down to sign the visitors book to show solidarity, or stay for a teach-in.

Sympathetic businesses donated food and toothbrushes. Fort Hare students held a protest in support of our protest. In turn, NUSAS leaders including UCT students went to Fort Hare to show



LEADING THE WAY TO BREMNER

solidarity by laying a wreath on the grave of James Stuart, founder of Fort Hare. With over two hundred students sleeping over in Bremner, we set the world record for the biggest student sit-in. The highly publicised sit-ins at Warwick University in the United Kingdom, and at MIT in the USA, had far smaller student numbers.

The apartheid regime responded by escalating its menace. By the seventh day of the sit-in, Special Branch (political) police had approached every Coloured and Indian student at the sit-in to threaten to cancel their permit to attend UCT unless they immediately withdrew from the protest. The then

Police Minister, SL Muller denounced that “so many of the protesters have Jewish surnames such as Kaplinsky, Lipansky, and Gottschalk.

Special Branch plainclothes police followed the few foreign students taking part in the protest until they left the country. Over 8 days, such pressures meant that the numbers of sit-in protesters gradually shrank to 150. Then over 500 racist students from Stellenbosch University were bussed in. One racist shouted out “What are they sitting in for – a kaffir”.



HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS ENTERING BRENNER TO SUPPORT THE SIT-IN PROTEST



SLOWLY MOVING INTO BREMNER ...

The racists charged, smashing the glass doors of the Bremner building to attempt to assault us. At least one shot was fired. Police with dogs stopped them. The next day the police announced that they were withdrawing and would no longer protect us from any further assaults. So, we ended our sit-in.

The consequences of the apartheid regime's actions were that South Africa lost the scholarship of Archie Mafeje. He became professor at universities and institutes in Tanzania, Egypt, the Netherlands, and Namibia. Among his most cited publications were *The Ideology of Tribalism* and *The Problem of*

Anthropology in Historical Perspective. Only in 2000 did he return to South Africa to become a research fellow at the African Renaissance Centre at UNISA. The apartheid regime withdrew the passport of Raphie Kaplinsky. He had to leave on a no-return exit permit for postgraduate studies in the United Kingdom. He never returned to live in South Africa, but spent his career as an academic at British universities.

Our sit-in protest brought huge international headlines from the USA to the Soviet Union shining the torch on this latest extension of apartheid policies.

NEWS COVERAGE OF THE SIT-IN

This is the edition of *Varsity*, the University of Cape Town's student-run newspaper, that was produced to cover the first mass meeting protesting against the non-appointment of Archie Mafeje.

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LEATHERS
SQUASH RACKETS

VARSAITY

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Vol. 21, No. 19

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1968

Price 5c

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ADIDAS

MAFEJE PROTEST TODAY

Varsity Press Staff

Mass protest today will be held on the appointment of Mr. Archie Mafeje in a protest at 10 o'clock under way today with a Mass Meeting in Harwood Hall.

It is the U.C.T. Council which is expected to announce the decision before the end of the month following the appointment of Mafeje to the post of the Minister of National Education. The Minister of Education is expected to announce the decision of the Council in the next few days.

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WITS. VIEW ON MAFEJE
By Norman Phillips
Mr. Archie Mafeje, a Witwatersrand University lecturer, has been appointed to the post of Minister of National Education. This appointment has caused a great deal of controversy in the University of Cape Town.

Professor Erik Erikson, who gave Mafeje's U.C.T. thesis a glowing review, is seen with Mafeje (left) and another man (right) at a meeting.

S.A. should be proud of exporting non-violence

By Archie Kestel
Professor Erik Erikson, addressing the South African Students' Union (S.A.S.U.) on Tuesday night, said that South Africa was proud of its reputation for non-violence.

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INNES IS NEW PRESIDENT

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DANIEL LEAVES FOR U.S.

By Jack Brown
Mr. Daniel, a student of the University of Cape Town, has been elected to the post of President of the U.C.T. Council.

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- a) ARCHIE MAFEJE
- b) KENNETH HUGHES AND KEITH GOTTSCHALK WELCOME PROFESSOR ERIK ERIKSON AT THE AIRPORT.
- Maddy Lewis had the privilege of interviewing Prof Erikson for Varsity. They sat on a bench under a tree at Kirstenbosch.



AFTER THE STUDENTS LEFT, A FEW STAYED BEHIND TO CLEAN UP.

DUNCAN INNES ADDRESSES US

COMMENTS FROM MADDY LEWIS, ONE OF THE SIT-IN VETERANS:

One of the details that amuses me is that in those days it wasn't unusual for rebellious students to dress well. The boys often wore ties and jackets, while the girls might have extravagant hairstyles and perfect makeup. Maddy Lewis was News Editor of *Varsity* newspaper in 1968; Mike Popham was Editor and David Fanning was Features Editor.



Photos and comments from

MADDY GRAY

(known as Maddy Lewis in 1968)

**TWO OF VARSITY EDITORS: MADI GRAY
& MIKE POPHAM AT THE 50TH REUNION**



BIRTH OF THE SPIRIT OF '68 BURSARY

BY MICHAEL HUBBARD – SIT-IN

VETERAN AND DRIVER OF THE BURSARY

When we held the 40th reunion of the 1968 sit-in, in 2008, it was a rich moment for UCT. Everything was full of hope. The reunion took place at the same time as Max Price was being installed as Vice Chancellor of UCT. The opera students serenaded us with wonderful singing and it was really good to see people we hadn't seen for 40 years. Back in London, we held a get-together for those who hadn't been able to make it to Cape Town for the reunion and we came up with the idea of creating a bursary for postgraduate students at UCT. Angela, from the UCT Trust in the UK helped set it up and I ran with it and organised it. Most of the committee are retired academics, who are used to assessing research proposals. We set the bar high – looking for good proposals from people who needed the money the most.

The Spirit of '68 bursary was formally set up in 2012 and has now run for ten years. It was always going to be a small fund – the idea was to get as many veterans of the sit-in involved as possible and to put funds in on a monthly basis, wherever we could. The idea behind it was to help people at the crucial point of their studies and to have as a focus the issue of social

exclusion. In the ten years it has run, we have provided bursaries for 22 students – some years more generously than others – depending on how much money was available. At the 50th reunion in 2018, as well as having a gathering of veterans, current bursary recipients were invited to attend and it was a real highlight to engage with the recipients and hear their stories. One of the lessons we learned is that if you can get small bits of money where they are needed – you can make a difference.

MIKE'S IMPRESSIONS OF UCT ACROSS

THE YEARS: I was pushed, pulled and challenged during my university years.

UCT in the late 60's was a very exciting place to be. UCT has always been a provocative place which challenges/ disgusts/ angers/ upsets people...however if you keep going, it shapes you and your skills. UCT is a place of change and if you want to see what is coming in South Africa, you need look no further than UCT.

"I would like to thank each person who has contributed to this fund – and there have been many of you – no matter how big or small your contribution, you have made a difference".



FEEDBACK FROM RECIPIENTS OF THE BURSARY

STELLA MOKITIMI

Degree: PhD in Psychiatry.
Child & adolescent mental
health services in Western Cape.

Stella Mokitimi, a Psychiatric Nursing Specialist at the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital, and a doctoral candidate at the University of Cape Town received a Nursing Excellence Award on 7 November 2017 recognising excellence among the top nurses. She is among the first nurses at Red Cross to pursue doctoral studies and has been the first to be granted sabbatical; which she hopes will pave the way for other nurses to pursue further studies.

ON RECEIVING THE BURSARY:

Being a recipient of the Spirit of '68 bursary opened doors for me for my career. This was the very first funding I

received for my research – I had nothing at the time and needed to do data collection, which required travelling. The bursary provided resources that I needed for research.

I have now completed my PhD in Child and Adolescent mental health at both national and provincial levels and am involved in policy making in mental health. My research didn't end with my PhD – I have published 4 papers and currently I am looking for funding for my 5th paper.

It has been exciting to see my research implemented in a tangible way in Khayelitsha and to see my work being ploughed back into the community. Much

FEEDBACK

of the work being done in Khayelitsha is as a result of my study and the community is now starting to implement their own recommendations. I have been in the mental health profession all of my life and the challenges on the ground have pushed me to be at the level where I am now – I want the voices of the users to be heard. I have been developing models that will have a positive impact and I want to be able to implement meaningful policy. What is encouraging is that other provinces are now copying our strategies.

WHAT DRIVES STELLA

Being a parent and helping my own children and wanting to assist other parents who are struggling and need specialist services. The other important

thing is finances – none of what I have done could have been done without finances. I am also extremely grateful for the support from my supervisors – I couldn't have completed my studies without them! I push myself to be the best person I can be and I want to be in a position where I can lead mental health programmes. There is often a lack of recognition for mental health and I want to be a change-agent in this field. My heart is here – making a difference where I am.

GRATITUDE FOR SPIRIT OF '68:

Stella says, *"I will forever be grateful for the Spirit of '68 bursary – it opened doors for me, which was crucial for someone from humble beginnings like me. This type of contribution impacts society"*.



JANE DIALA

Degree: PhD Law. Negotiation of bridewealth payment: interplay of structure and agency.

MY STORY:

I grew up in a highly patriarchal society. Being the first child in my family, and a female child wasn't an easy journey. Considering my position, my parents were dissuaded from sending me to university since I am a girl-child and

would eventually marry. This created a dilemma for me and impacted my life decisions at that time. I had to consider which course was cost-effective, should I go to school before marriage, or should I marry and then pray my husband allowed me to further my education? My parents were low-income earners and had seven children, so it made sense to not attend university so that my younger siblings could get an education. However, in the end my parents did their best and I got my bachelor's degree, as did my younger siblings. My parents saw me through my undergraduate studies and postgraduate diploma after selling some of their personal properties. I got married after completing my diploma and thankfully my husband valued education. He moved to South Africa for his doctorate and made plans for me to join him and further my education.

JANE'S RESEARCH:

My research interest spans social justice and human rights within a law and development prism. It engages the age-long structure versus agency discourse to better understand the extent to which unequal power relations play out in issues of social justice with gender undertones. Titled *The interplay of structure and agency: The negotiation process of bridewealth payment in*

Southeast Nigeria' my thesis sought to understand how power relations play out in the negotiation process of bridewealth payment and the ways individuals manipulate or control the cultural institution of bridewealth payment. My research is informed by my experience during the payment of my bridewealth. Southeast Nigeria has the highest amount of bridewealth, unlike other ethnic groups where the payment is almost negligible. During my traditional marriage, the items and monies that were requested from my husband were exorbitant. Most of the items and monies requested made no sense to me. However, my husband and my parents found a way to navigate this challenge. Also, most of the items were to be shared among my kinsmen who contributed nothing to my upbringing and persuaded my father not to send me to the University. Additionally, the marriage list is categorised. There is a marriage list for a bride without education, with only a bachelor's, master's or doctorate. For me, this was appalling, so I wanted to investigate more on the significance and distortion of bridewealth, how other brides are navigating this cultural institution and the role of law in all of these. So, I interviewed traditional leaders, leaders of the kindred, parents of brides, couples intending to do their traditional marriage and other elders

in the community. It was interesting research, and I learnt a great deal from it.

WHAT HAS SHAPED JANE ON THE JOURNEY OF HER STUDIES?

My doctoral supervisors were instrumental to my growth - they stood by me and gave me both professional, emotional, and financial support. I had a stillbirth during my doctoral studies, which precipitated depression. It affected my plan of graduating at a set date, which also meant more financial expenses. My supervisors gave me all the support I needed financially and emotionally. So, their support and the Spirit of 68 bursary meant that I only needed to take care of my mental health and concentrate on my studies without financial worries. I have gone ahead to build networks through them.

IMPACT OF THE SPIRIT OF

'68 BURSARY:

The Spirit of 68 bursary made a big difference and relieved our financial stress, because my spouse was also a full-time student in the Faculty of Law at UCT. As a foreigner on a study visa, I could only work 20 hours per week and my part-time jobs were not enough to cover my tuition. I had a four-year-old girl child at this time and the stress was overwhelming. The Spirit of 68 bursary lowered my study fees and the number

of hours I needed to work. I was able to continue my studies and complete my degree in record time. I wanted to be a role-model for my daughter and show her what an empowered woman looks like and I am pleased to say I did that. Now, I have my doctoral degree and am currently doing my post-doctorate degree at Stellenbosch University.

WHAT LIES AHEAD?

I look forward to a research position, where I will continue to work and contribute to building knowledge around my research niche, teach and mentor younger colleagues, work together with brilliant colleagues and contribute to academic life in many ways. My academic qualifications and experiences have set me on what will be a long and fulfilling academic career.

A portrait of Miriam Kanengoni, a woman with long dark hair and glasses, wearing a white t-shirt and a grey apron. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera.

MIRIAM KANENGONI

Degree: Masters in Social Development. Exploration of Lavender Hill youths' path to employment.

IMPACT OF THE SPIRIT OF '68 BURSARY:

Being a recipient of the Spirit of 68 bursary helped me alleviate the financial burden: specifically, to cover the cost of travelling to Lavender Hill. It meant that I was able to uncover gaps in knowledge relating to this underprivileged community, gather data, understand how people live their life and how they 'make it'. I was able to secure a safe, noise free place where we could conduct the interviews without interruptions. Ms Kanengoni emphasised the importance of funding to enable researchers to

reach into communities that are often unreachable. The community she worked in commented on this and expressed their pleasure at having people from outside their community engage with them.

MIRIAM'S RESEARCH:

My research was focused on exploring Lavender Hill youth's pathways to employment. After graduation, I decided to pursue a Masters' degree because I saw how difficult it was to be gainfully employed and that prompted me to do research on how other young people

FEEDBACK

managed to overcome such obstacles despite their background. Lavender Hill is a community faced by a lot of social challenges, from gang violence to drug abuse and teenage pregnancies. Therefore, sharing positive experiences can be the hope that someone needs to keep pursuing their goals.

The research unpacked challenges faced by the youth and the coping strategies implemented to overcome the obstacles to youth employment. The aim was to highlight positive outcomes from difficult experiences to encourage young people facing the same challenges.

CHALLENGES OF BEING A POSTGRADUATE STUDENT:

As a postgraduate student, you need moral support and financial support, hence having a good support system and

financial support such as this bursary is a necessary privilege in this journey. Currently, I am still interested in social development issues, and have started a nonprofit organization in rural Zimbabwe to support the underprivileged students with stationery and school uniforms. I am currently also travelling around Asia and working there, however I am interested in pursuing a PhD degree now. After years of working with different people from different organizations, I am constantly reminded that you never stop learning. Every experience is a learning curve.

Thank you for this opportunity and for your support. I am definitely paying it forward.

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