



# KLAUS-JÜRGEN BATHE LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS

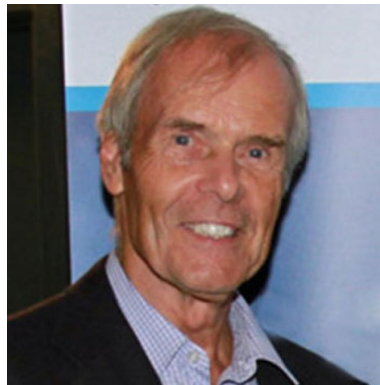
## NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2024

### Message from Professor Bathe

I am very thankful to have the opportunity to write this message.

Since the mid-1990s, I have supported many UCT students in the Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment at the University of Cape Town through the Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Scholarship awards. In 2013, I thought I should aim higher and do more. South Africa's difficulties continuously increased, and many citizens living in poverty needed help. Today, the situation is not better. However, as a professor at MIT in the USA, my financial resources are limited.

The change I envisaged could only come about through excellent leaders. An effective leader can lift millions of people from poverty and bring them to better health conditions and lives. Hence, I decided to create the Leadership Scholarships to help in the education of some excellent students at UCT to become great leaders in South African society. With this idea, I asked Professor Alphose Zingoni to assist in creating the Scholarship Programme at UCT, and he graciously agreed. I continuously supplied all financial



resources, but I suggested that other sponsors be found in South Africa, that a course on effective leadership be created at UCT, and that we write a book for this course. Unfortunately, these aims were not reached, and administrative costs became a large part of the total financial support I provided.

I am grateful to Professor Zingoni and his support staff, Belisa Rodrigues and Tammy Matose, for all their efforts, but I decided in 2023 that a change of the Programme was needed. While I am very thankful to have been able to help students through the Leadership Programme, I want to aim higher, to achieve more than what we have so far achieved by, for example, also establish a vibrant community of students who obtained the

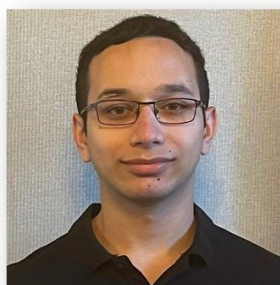
scholarship, for all to help each other and South Africa. I invite you to join the [LinkedIn page of the Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Leadership Scholarship](#) to be part of that community. I am also open to following further ideas to have a larger impact in reaching what we all would like to reach – for South Africans to have a better life.

We are now in a period of transition of the Programme, and I would like to thank Mary Hilton for the excellent help she is providing. I will visit Cape Town in the new year and look forward to the induction dinner for the 2025 new cohort of students on 20 February. I hope to meet up with many scholars and friends of the Programme. On that occasion, I also hope to discuss ideas regarding the possible strengthening of the Programme to make the Programme more effective in reaching our aim – a better life for many poor South Africans in their beautiful country with so many great resources.

Let me close by wishing everyone all the best for the coming Holiday Season, and already now a very Healthy, Prosperous and Happy New Year!

## 2025 Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Scholarship recipients

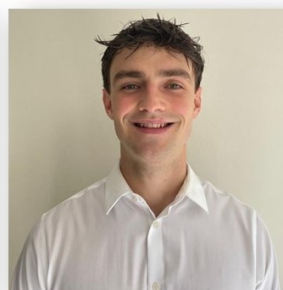
Congratulations to the seven students selected for the 2025 Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Leadership Scholarships. The selection process is never easy, but the seven had outstanding academic achievements and demonstrated leadership potential. The UCT Student Financial Aid Office now administers the Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Leadership Scholarship, and they invited the top students on the deans' merit lists across all six faculties at UCT to apply for the scholarship. To be eligible, students must be South African citizens in their last two years of study and demonstrate evidence of academic excellence and a commitment to becoming future leaders of the country across all areas of South African life.



Mikaeel Taliep  
2nd year BCom



Basetsana Moropoli  
2nd year LLB



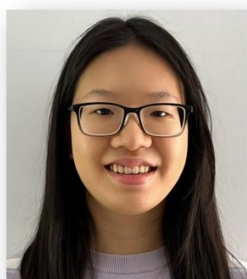
Ryan Fallon  
2nd year Business Science



Siobhan Durr  
2nd year BSc Occupational  
Therapy



Owami Ngomane  
3rd year Civil Engineering



Shih-Min (Angela) Liu  
4th year MBChB



Mia van der Lingen  
2nd year BA

## Managing the KJB Leadership Scholarship



2024 has been a transitional year for the Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Leadership Scholarships. Mary Hilton who spent

29 years at UCT, is now helping with the Scholarships, working closely with the Student Financial Aid Office who will administer the fund. "I am honoured to be part of the Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Leadership Scholarships. It allows me to continue my involvement in education and make a meaningful impact on the next generation," she said. "I am excited to share my knowledge and experiences and help create a vibrant community of young leaders who continue to strive to improve the lives of many in South Africa. The remarkable

achievements of KJB scholars inspire me."

From pioneering startups and global climate change initiatives to prestigious academic pursuits and leadership roles across various sectors, their successes are a testament to the impact of the KJB Leadership Scholarship Programme.

"I look forward to working with the 2025 cohort of scholars and engaging with the alumni."

## The support of scholarships

Amy Booth graduated from UCT in 2018 with her MBChB, cum laude and gold medallist. During her time at UCT, she was involved in many leadership roles and, in recognition of her contribution, received the Vice-Chancellor's Leadership Award. In 2015, she was selected as one of fifteen Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Leadership Programme Scholars and is an outstanding example of the programme's core values and objectives. Amy says that the support offered by the programme was pivotal in her academic journey.

After working as a doctor during the difficult pandemic years, in 2020 she was awarded a Rhodes

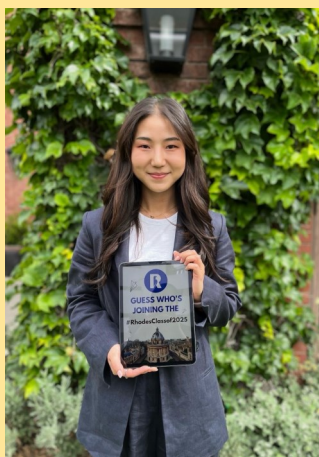


Scholarship and registered for her PhD at Oxford University, where she is in her final year of studying the environmental impact of health care. She said, "It has been an incredible experience, scattered with other amazing opportunities like the UK Young Academy. Earlier this year, I was in Zimbabwe, working with UN Tourism to

develop a framework to promote sustainable tourism. This is an opportunity that I would never have envisaged if it wasn't for the support of scholarships throughout my academic career."

Amy strongly believes in the power of scholarship and how it changes people's lives. She said she was privileged to be able to give back to her high school in South Africa by working on a scholarship programme. She hopes that once she starts working again, she will be able to continue to invest in education, as Prof Bathe has done through the Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Scholarship.

## Leader from Africa for Africa



Inae Kim, a 2022 Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Scholar, is one of seven UCT graduates named among the 11 recipients of the prestigious Rhodes

Scholarship 2025 in the Southern African cohort.

They were selected after a rigorous and competitive process and will join more than 100 scholars from around the world at the University of Oxford in October 2025. As Rhodes scholars, they will undertake fully funded postgraduate studies and become part of an esteemed international network devoted to creating a positive difference in the world.

Inae is an outstanding example of the Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Leadership

Scholarship's core values and objectives. She said, "I am incredibly honoured and grateful to have been chosen. The scholarship helped me shape myself into a leader from Africa for Africa and now into a global context. These are lessons I truly treasure going forward."

Professor Bathe said, "It is rewarding to hear that the Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Leadership Programme played a positive role in Inae's life and that the skills and mentorship she received contributed to her success."



## Making her mark in the global music industry

Naledi Masilo, a 2016 Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Leadership scholar graduated in 2017 with her international relations and sociology degree from the University of Cape Town. In 2018, she joined the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, completed her Bachelor of Music in Jazz Vocal Performance in 2021.

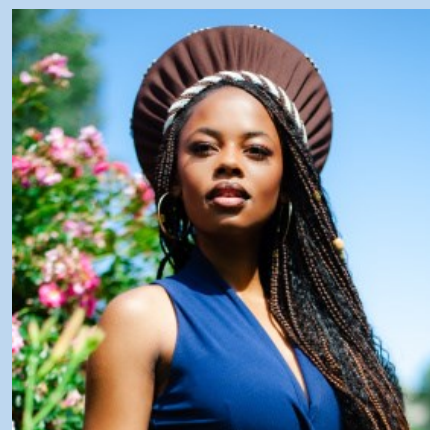
Naledi is making her mark in the global music industry and recently was on a North American tour with Hans Zimmer. It was her first arena tour with a well-known artist she has followed for years. "I am learning so much and connecting with some great people."

Her album *Batho* was on the ballot for Grammy consideration. Reflecting the rich legacy of South African icons, "*Batho*" uses a vibrant fusion of traditional South African jazz and global influences, embodying the evolution of

this dynamic genre. The project embraces the improvisational spirit, complex harmonies, and themes rooted in protest and social commentary that are hallmarks of jazz while also incorporating elements of rock, soul, and Indigenous music.

Naledi said, "African Soundscapes are rightly making their mark on the global scene, which is long overdue, especially in jazz. I am grateful to be part of the movement."

Naledi is passionate about being an educator and advocate for women and girls. In 2019, she founded the Dreaming Girls Arts Foundation, dedicated to cultivating women and girls into leaders and critically conscious members of society through art-focused programming, peer-centered mentorship models, and community-based social development initiatives.



She also co-founded and directed Trailblazers, a supplementary programme targeting girls in jazz aged 10 to 18 as part of the Savannah Music Festival.

Naledi is back in South Africa and will be in Cape Town performing from 4 to 8 December, and in Johannesburg on 15 December.

## Reaching out to UK alumni



In 2015, Irfan Habib was one of the first Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Leadership Scholars. He graduated from UCT in 2016 with a BSc in Astrology and Physics and, in 2017, completed his honours in Physics from the University of Witwatersrand. He was awarded a Mandela Rhodes Scholarship for his master's degree, which he completed in 2018. He received an Oppenheimer

Memorial Trust Scholarship for his doctoral studies at Oxford University, and in 2024, he has successfully defended his PhD thesis.

Irfan is a hardware development engineer at a quantum computing start-up in Oxford. He loves his current role in the research and development industry and hopes to one day bring these skills back to South Africa.

Having studied as an international student in the UK, he said, "The life of an international student can often come with a whole host of challenges, and having a strong support structure of people who've been through a similar journey can be incredibly advantageous, both from the

perspective of a mentor and a mentee." He is planning to connect with KJB alumni in the UK.

"The support of the Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Leadership Programme played a significant role in getting me to this point in my journey; for that, I will always be grateful! I would love to connect with the broader KJB alumni network."

Professor Bathe said, "I am delighted to hear about Irfan's success and his wish to create a KJB community. It would be wonderful to have a community of KJB Scholars to help and support each other and help South Africa much more."

## Listed as one of the top impact startups

Carla Wilby, a 2016 Klaus Jürgen Bathe Leadership scholar, and her partner Thalia Pillay, co-founded Orca, an AI-driven fraud orchestration platform. They aim to empower fraud fighters to outpace fraud using our custom ML models. Carla and Thalia are both UCT engineering graduates.

They have been selected for the Impact/100 2024 list, which Norrsken curates in collaboration with partners like Acumen, The Obama Foundation, Katapult, Softbank, Norrsken22, and more. The list highlights the top impact startups working to solve some of the world's most pressing challenges.

At Orca, their mission to fight fraud aligns with these challenges as they



*Carla Wilby and her co-founder Thalia Pillay*

work to build a more transparent, secure, and sustainable financial ecosystem. They are honoured to be part of a community driving

meaningful change for a better, safer digital future.

Orca is the only 2024 start-up and only South African company on the

## News in Brief

**Fatima Docrat**, a 2016 Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Leadership scholar, was awarded a Mandela Rhodes Scholarship and completed her master's degree at the prestigious London School of Economics. She is currently working at CEPI (funding vaccine R&D) in London.

**Callum Tilbury**, a 2019 Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Leadership scholar, is spending some time in the UK developing skills, connections, and insights with the goal of returning to South Africa and building solutions. He is a senior research engineer at Oxa, where he drives innovation and contributes to shaping the future of transportation.

**Bonolo Skee**, a 2015 Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Leadership scholar, is a Senior Automation Analyst at Old Mutual in Cape Town. In her personal time, Bonolo has joined a team of young entrepreneurs dedicated to using technology to assist learners from disadvantaged backgrounds. Their goal is to guide the learners in choosing their post-high school study

paths, exploring funding options, and applying to various institutions cost-effectively.

**Ryan Hudson**, a 2015 Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Leadership scholar, is a Senior Strategy Associate for Group Strategy at Old Mutual. Ryan is still a volunteer firefighter and has had a busy few years of firefighting in Cape Town as climate change has worsened the natural predisposition of the Cape vegetation to burn during the summer months.

**Mapulane Makhaba**, a 2019 Klaus-Jürgen Bathe scholar, completed her MSc in Electrical and Computer Engineering in August and has successfully registered as a candidate engineer with ECSA.

**Ziyanda Kebeni**, a 2015 Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Leadership scholar, moved to the UK in 2023 to take up a Science Teaching post. She hopes to use the experience she is learning in the UK to plough back to South African teachers.

## Committed to giving back

Tendani Mufeba, a 2022 Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Leadership Scholarship scholar, graduated in September 2024 with his BSocSci in Organisational Psychology. At the time of his graduation, Tendani said, "As I celebrate my graduation, I'm grateful for the incredible people who have shaped my journey. From family and friends, mentors and organisations, each of you have played a vital role in my story."

Tendani thanked Prof Bathe for his generosity, vision and commitment to helping scholars like him succeed. "The

KJB Leadership Programme truly transformed my life, and I am forever grateful for the opportunity to be part of this journey. As I step into this new chapter, I'm committed to giving back and serving others with the same heart, faith, and dedication that you have shown me."

Tendani is currently pursuing a Postgraduate Diploma in Disability Studies with a focus on promoting inclusivity and positive change for vulnerable individuals in society, especially in the field of education.



"My passion for making a difference is rooted in the values instilled by the KJB Leadership Programme," he added. He is presently looking for funding for his postgraduate studies.

## Three scholars to graduate in March 2025

The last three Klaus Jürgen Bathe Leadership Programme scholars will graduate in 2024.

Sifiso Ukaka, a Klaus Jürgen Bathe Leadership Fellowship scholar, will complete her BSc in Mechatronics this year and graduate in March 2025. She has secured an engineering internship in the renewable energy sector, an area she has always been passionate about. Sifiso said, "I strongly believe that renewable energy is the future, especially as fossil fuels have a limited lifespan and contribute heavily to global issues like war, environmental damage, and climate change."



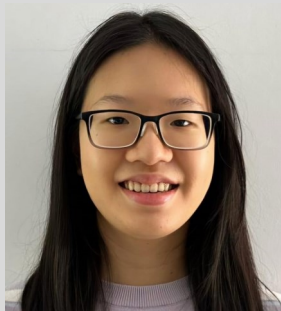
Oluwatoni Ojo-Akinkunmi, a 2022 Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Leadership scholar, will graduate in March 2025 with a BSc in Mechanical and Mechatronic Engineering. She was due to complete her degree in 2023, but due to visa delays, she could not register in time and had to return in 2024. She hopes now to continue studying and register for her master's degree in mechanical engineering.

Yazini-Nangamso Xinindlu, a 2022 Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Leadership scholar, will graduate in March 2025 with a Business Science degree specialising in Finance and Accounting.





## Meet the 2025 cohort



**Shih-Min (Angela) Liu** is a fourth-year MBChB student at the University of Cape Town. From a young age, she has always wanted to do something that would allow her to make positive contributions to society. This passion has guided her through her academic journey and solidified her commitment to pursuing a career in medicine. She is a member of Shawco Health and, in her third year, received the UCT Plus Bronze Award for her 35 hours of community leadership.

residence house committee, a class rep, and a mentor for first-year students, and has been elected to serve on the 2024/25 Law Student Council as the Media Communications Officer. She is the academic chair of a society she co-founded in the law faculty, which aims to address the lack of academic support and external legal opportunities for law students. With her leadership experience and deep commitment to representing the disadvantaged regarding their property rights, she aims to become a Conveyancer when she graduates.



**Mia van der Lingen** is a second-year BA student majoring in English Literature and Anthropology. She is an accomplished musician and has self-published a children's book. She tutors students in many subjects, volunteers for the Green Campus Initiative on campus, and is a committed Mountain and Ski Club member. She is an active member of the Biological Society and has been a class representative for two courses. She is working as an ambassador for the School of Languages and Literature to solidify an official

relationship between UCT and the University of São Paulo, where she spent time as an exchange student. She plays an active role in her community by volunteering for TEARS animal rescue service and various soup kitchens. She wishes to pursue a career in teaching, empowering South African youth to realise their dreams through education and appreciation for the arts.



**Mikaeel Taliep** is a second year BCom student in Financial Accounting CA stream. In Grade 12, he was a prefect and matriculated as the top student from Islamia College. For three years, he was a member of the First Belvedere Scouts. He wants to use his career as a chartered accountant to encourage companies to adopt sustainable and ethical practices that will contribute to long-term economic and social stability in South Africa.



**Basetsana Moropoli** is a second-year LLB student. She was involved in sports teams at high school and was a member of the school's first literacy team. She has been involved in various leadership roles during her two years at the university. She is a member of her

## Meet the 2025 cohort



**Owami Ngomane** is a third-year civil engineering student who chose civil engineering so he can return to his community and provide them with quality infrastructure and services. He was a member of the Representative Council of Learners and mentorship programme at high school. In his second year at UCT, he received a UCT Plus Gold award for 60 hours in elected leadership positions. He held various positions in SDASM UCT and was active in their programmes. He was a Student Front Desk Assistant and Coordinator, a tutor in his residence, and a mentor for first-year students in civil engineering. For 2025, Owami has been selected for a Discipline Sub warden position in a residence.



**Ryan Fallon** is a second-year Business Science student specialising in the finance and accounting stream. In Grade 12, he was elected head boy and prefect and captain and vice-captain of the athletics and rugby teams, respectively. Ryan has been involved in tutoring high school students since his first year at university and has been approached by the tutoring company to develop an online course for more students to access. Ryan is passionate about South Africa and said, "Passion fuels success and perhaps by inspiring others with that passion, I can help to fuel the success of South Africa."



**Siobhan Durr** is a second-year occupational therapy student committed to improving South Africans' lives and wants to address communities' health-care challenges. She cultivated her leadership skills over many years through her involvement in school societies, community service, and student leadership. In her matric year, she was elected as mentor group leader, where she was responsible for organising and presenting sessions, guiding discussions about socio-cultural topics and planning events. She was nominated as a class representative this year and plans to be a class rep or mentor in 2025.