

Nurturing the Next Generation of Leaders

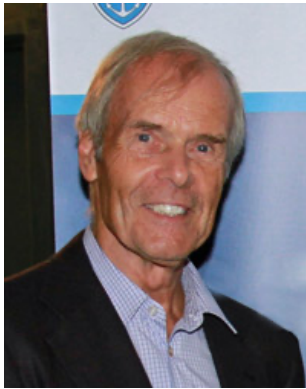


Figure 1 Prof. Bathe, Founder

The Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Leadership Programme was established at the University of Cape Town in 2014, through a gift donated by Professor Klaus-Jürgen Bathe of Massachusetts (USA). The primary goal of the Programme is to produce graduates with outstanding leadership qualities and a strong sense of social justice, who will go on to play leading and significant roles in business, government, industry and civil society in South Africa and on the African continent.

The birth of a vision

It all began in 2013 when Klaus- Jürgen Bathe, world-renowned mechanical engineering professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), was visiting Cape Town and had a conversation over dinner with his long-time friend Alphose Zingoni, professor of structural engineering and mechanics at the University of Cape Town. The conversation shifted from matters of engineering, to problems faced by South Africa and the continent as a whole, and how to solve these. The region held much potential. A vision of a prosperous African continent emerged, but it became clear that good leadership was needed in order to steer the continent towards that goal. The region needed a critical mass of talented and energetic leaders with a strong commitment to serving others, eradicating poverty and achieving prosperity for all.

Thus was born the idea of a leadership programme at the University of Cape Town. In early 2014, Professor Bathe made a generous donation to the University of Cape Town for the purposes of establishing a leadership programme, and Professor Zingoni was appointed its Director to oversee the implementation. When the first call for applications was made in June of that year, the response was tremendous, with over 300 applications received from across all six faculties of UCT. It was clear that students were very excited about this new programme, which augured well for its future. After a rigorous selection process, sixteen exceptional students were eventually selected to become the first cohort of Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Leadership Scholars. The Programme was formally launched by Dr. Max Price (the then Vice-Chancellor of UCT) on 20 November 2014 as the first of its kind in South Africa.

The photo below (Figure 2), taken at the launch of the Programme, shows the sixteen inaugural scholars with Prof. Zingoni (Programme Director), Dr. Max Price (UCT Vice-Chancellor) and Dr. Russell Ally (Executive Director of DAD). Also in the photo is Mrs Felicity Seragie (the first Programme Administrator), second from left.



Figure 2

Figure 3 was taken at the first inaugural dinner of the KJB Leadership Programme, in February 2015. In the photo are: Guest of Honour Mr. Teddy Taylor, the Consul General at the US Consulate in Cape Town (Back Row, 2nd from right); Ms Kirsten Buchhorn, Head of the Cultural Department at the German Consulate in Cape Town (Back Row, 3rd from right); Prof. Klaus- Jürgen Bathe, Programme Founder (Back Row, 4th from right); Prof. Alphose Zingoni (Back Row, 1st from left).



Figure 3



Figure 4 Prof. Zingoni, Programme Director

“There are many leadership programmes in South Africa and elsewhere, but this programme is different in that it specifically aims to (i) find, (ii) educate and (iii) nurture talented undergraduate students across all faculties of UCT towards becoming leaders who are able to tackle issues at the national level and uplift their countries for the betterment of all citizens”

Prof. Zingoni (KJB Programme Director)

Growing Future Ethical Leaders

The programme ethos espoused in its selection of KJB scholars, are particularly focused on young future leaders who hold leadership values hard to find in the world today: dedication, altruism, humbleness, justice, and passion for helping others (a sense of community).

After the successful launch of the programme in 2015, the programme grew exponentially to a record enrolment of 26 by 2016. Thereafter, the addition of 10 to 12 students each year meant the cumulative number of scholarships awarded became 40 by 2017, 50 by 2018, and 61 by 2019 (see Figure 5). And the programme continues to nurture ethical leaders year on year.



Figure 5 KJB Programme Induction Dinner, February 2019

Programme and Peer Support

As the programme gained momentum, the KJB office expanded to bring on board a new Programme Manager, Belisa Rodrigues in 2017 supported by Tammy Matose, new Programme Administrator in 2018.

The following photo (Figure 6) shows in the front row from left, Belisa Rodrigues (KJB Programme Manager), Prof. Zingoni (Programme Director), Prof. Bathe (Founder), Kathryn Davies (KJB Scholar 2019), Simbarashe Gomwe (KJB Scholar 2019), and Tammy Matose (KJB Programme Administrator).

The second row from left shows the 2019 KJB Cohort, Angela Euston-Brown, Joshua Mukurazhizha, Micaella Rogers, Nuvika Pillay, Peace Frances. The back row shows KJB Scholars, Alistair White, Mapulane Makhaba, and Callum Tilbury.



Figure 6

As a result of the increased capacity, in addition to its leadership internships and electives, the programme evolved its activities to include bespoke personal development programming. This includes leadership bootcamps, public seminars by guest speakers such as human rights activist Pregs Govender (refer to Figure 7 below), psycho-social support facilitated by trauma-specialist Mutsa Samuel, as well as peer-networking opportunities for scholar engagement.



Figure 7 Pregs Govendar, Guest Speaker for the KJB Leadership Lecture series

During the recent online KJB Leadership Bootcamp, entitled “Kushava: Reboot of Self”, Reginald Nyakonda, current 2020 KJB Scholar, shared his Life Milestones in his leadership presentation, one of these milestones being the awarding of his KJB Scholarship:

"The KJB scholarship was a tremendous boost for my self-confidence and was like a light at the end of the tunnel. It not only made me feel recognised, but it also gave me the financial support I so desperately needed and a second family I can lean on in times of need."

University-wide support

Although the programme was essentially started by two Engineering Professors, the scholarship itself is broad-based, and targets young leaders in all six (6) faculties of the University of Cape Town. Since 2015 the programme has supported a cross section of scholars with 33% from the Engineering Faculty, 24% from Commerce, 15% from Humanities, 10% Sciences and Health Sciences, and 8% Law Faculty. The majority (61%) of the awardees were female.



Figure 8 KJB Alumni (2015) Ruqaya Gabier (now Medical Doctor), and Prof. Zingoni

Leading by example

The KJB Leadership Programme wishes to be a shining light to other Universities and Scholarship Programmes around the country, to focus on building the leadership capacities and capabilities of young people so that they can take charge and make the necessary changes needed to build our country and continent.

We are pleased to see our pioneering programme being replicated in this fashion and commend other programmes such as the new Leadership Programme recently launched at UCT to support young leaders in the UCT Law Faculty.



Figure 9 KJB Programme Induction Dinner, February 2020

Future Vision

The vision going forward is to involve sectors from governments, national agencies, industry, and the business sector for the support of the programme. We all should aim together that the economies of Africa have a continuous supply of excellent young leaders committed to making a very positive difference to their countries.

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For more information or to get involved:

Please visit our website: www.kjbatheleadership.uct.ac.za

Or email: belisa.rodriques@uct.ac.za