



ASISA Academy Newsflash – May 2020

Innovation as a concept was first explored in the early 1900s by Austrian Professor Joseph Schumpeter. A political economist, Schumpeter likened innovation to “creative destruction”. In short, creative destruction is required to enable innovation to flourish.

To be honest, we had absolutely no intention of applying the proverbial jackhammer to our learning programmes. However, the circumstances created by the Covid-19 pandemic called for innovation and resulted in us creatively “destroying” our existing learning structures and building new ones. I am still in awe of just how much innovation and creativity was displayed by the ASISA Academy team over the past two months and how quickly and easily our learning partners, presenters and programme delegates adapted to our new ways of teaching and learning.

The following programmes were successfully delivered in a virtual environment during May:

- **Investment Sprint series:**

Aluwani Capital Partners was the first ASISA member to sign up for our new [Investment Sprint](#) series. The Investment Sprint series repackages the content of our Financial Services Overview Blitzcamps into an offering of 14 engaging 2-hour online workshops.

We delivered four Investment Sprint sessions to the Aluwani team during May and based on the positive feedback received we believe that Sprint sessions are here to stay.

We now offer online Sprints on all topics covered by the ASISA Academy's Industry Overview Blitzcamps and we can also easily tailor the content to suit individual company requirements or develop a Sprint on entirely new investment-related topics of your choice. For more information on our Sprints, please email learn@asisaacademy.org.za

- **Retirement Fund Trustee Education (RFTE)**

The RFTE Programme resumed in May in an exciting online format. We delivered half day workshops on Death Benefits to trustees of the Vodacom Group Pensions Fund and the Engen Pension Fund.

A useful feature enabled by the online delivery of the programmes is the ability to measure the impact of learning as part of the programme, which makes for more effective and immediate Monitoring and Evaluation.

- **CFA Investment Foundation Certificate tutoring**

We continued our online tutoring programme for the Sanlam Investment Group's new graduate employees currently preparing for the CFA Investment Foundations Certificate Exam.

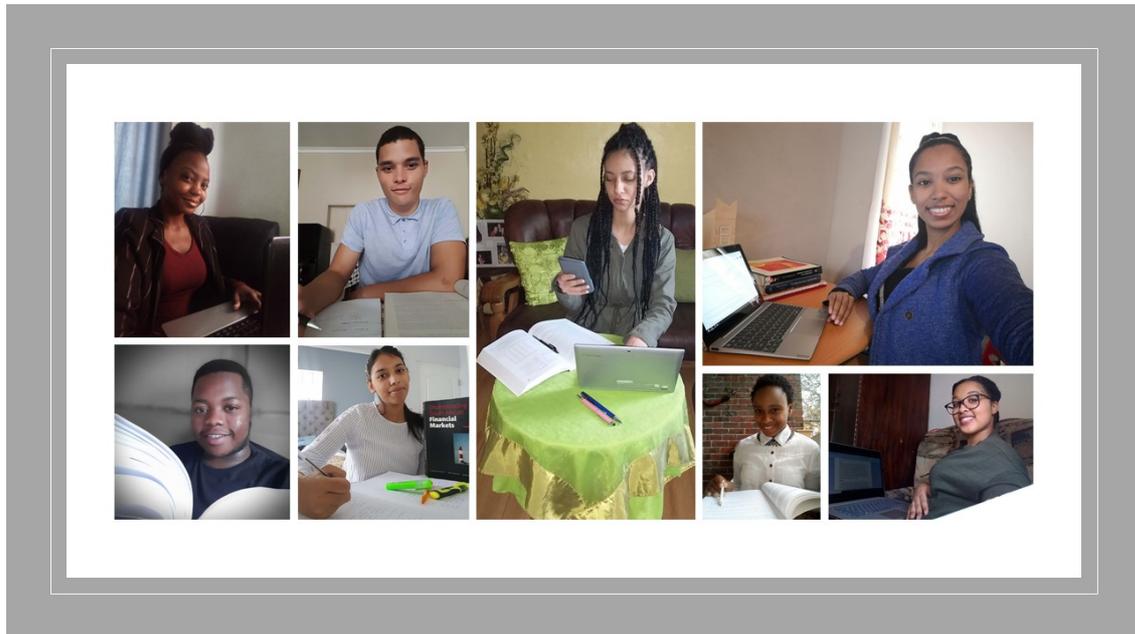
IMACS@TSiBA University Partnership Programme

Our 2019 [IMACS@TSiBA](#) candidates, currently enrolled in the second part of their elective in Investment Management Administration and Client Servicing (IMACS), are busy preparing for their June exams under difficult circumstances. In order to qualify for their sixteen-week internship with sponsoring ASISA member companies towards the completion of their BBA degrees later this year, these TSiBA students are required to pass their mid-year exams as well as the ASISA Academy's IMACS courses.

While the ASISA Academy has made it possible for the students to access their course materials and upload their tasks via a data free site specifically created for them, many of them struggle with connectivity at their homes and few of them have suitable devices geared for online learning.

On behalf of these students we would like to appeal for help to companies or individual donors in a position to assist with devices and/or data. If you can assist, please email learn@asisaacademy.org.za

We have also initiated the selection process for the 2020 IMACS@TSiBA programme.



IMACS@TSiBA students studying from home

Independent Financial Advisor (IFA) Internship Programme

I am happy to report that our interns on the [IFA Internship Programme](#) have really embraced working and learning from home and are doing well. The 37 graduates started their internships with their host practices in Cape Town, Johannesburg, Durban, Port Elizabeth, East London and Bloemfontein on Monday, 2 March.

The interns are currently preparing for their RE5 examinations coming up in July and August and I have to commend the ASISA Academy mentors for finding creative ways to support these young people online during these challenging times. During the month of June, all interns will be doing presentations to their mentors and managers on their learning so far, and their mentors will conduct group mentoring sessions. For the first time, all these interactions will take place via virtual online platforms.

Learning unlimited online for our young alumni

The ASISA Academy is partnering with the CFA Society of South Africa and the Association of Black Securities and Investment Professionals (ABSIP) to provide the alumni of our internship programmes with access to the Finweek Collective Insights round table discussions. Previously numbers had to be limited due to venue constraints, but with these discussion forums going online, there was unlimited access for our alumni to join the discussion on 3 June around the theme *“Disrupting the world of financial advice – Shifting towards a model that will serve the best interest of all South Africans”*.

All systems go for the Claims Assessors’ Short Course

The ASISA Academy powered UCT Life Insurance [Claims Assessors’ Short Course](#) will go ahead in July, but in a virtual format. Phumla Motsa, programme champion for this short course, says she is excited about the different platforms and methods that will be used to engage delegates when the 2020 course starts on Wednesday, 15 July.

The course will run every Wednesday over four months until October and aims to equip claims assessors with certification and skills in this complex field.

Welcoming Jolly

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Jolly Mokorosi, our new programme champion for our recreated Consumer Financial Education Practitioner Blitzcamps. Jolly is a Johannesburg-based professional principal officer and independent retirement fund trustee. She is actively involved in the education of retirement fund trustees and officials in Southern Africa.

The online Blitzcamps are aimed at Consumer Financial Education (CFE) practitioners who manage their respective companies’ CFE programmes. Topics to be covered will include the ASISA Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) guideline, business imperatives, digital CFE, behavioural economics, project design, project management and impact assessment. The Blitzcamps have been scheduled for 16, 23 and 30 July from 9h00 to 13h30. More information on this will be published on our website in the coming weeks.



Jolly Mokorosi - CFE Programme Champion

Through adversity to the stars

In South Africa, 16 June has a unique significance in that we commemorate the radical action of Black

youth in 1976, who stood up to the oppression of the Apartheid state. We especially remember Hector Pieterson, a youth who lost his life in the Soweto Uprising that year.

While we remember his tragic death, a young life, taken too soon, we also celebrate the power, the spirit and the resilience of our youth. The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in much hardship and suffering for people of all ages, but I really sympathise with our learners and students who have had to face multiple unexpected hurdles on an already challenging path of learning.

With the aim of offering some support and encouragement, I have recorded a message of hope for all those on a journey of learning with the ASISA Academy, which you can watch [here](#).

In closing

A combination of creative destruction and a healthy dose of innovation has enabled us to tailor the content of any of our traditional learning programmes into online sessions that will meet your needs. Please contact us for more information. As always, we also welcome suggestions and proposals.

Please visit our [website](#) for more information and like our [Facebook page](#) for regular updates. You are also welcome to interact with us on [LinkedIn](#).

Best wishes
Alicia Davids

ASISA Academy CEO