



## ASISA Academy Newsflash – August 2021

Dear Stakeholder

The role of women in education as well as the importance of ongoing learning for women is always top of mind for me during August when we commemorate both Women's Day and Women's Month.

I had dedicated last year's August edition of Newsflash to the women on our team and to honour them had asked each of them to share some inspirational insights. We used this quote from Eva Kekana, a member of the ASISA Academy Board who passed away suddenly in July, and it seems fitting to repeat it this year as it still sums up so aptly why women should strive to educate themselves:

*"I empower myself through continuous learning, always seeking to be the best that I can be. Making mistakes is part of learning."* – Eva Kekana, August 2020.

Ironically, I also received word in August that I had successfully achieved my Master's Degree in Education through the University of Johannesburg, while at the same time being consumed with grave concern for women in Afghanistan who now face an uncertain future in terms of their access to education. Another strong and inspirational woman immediately came to mind. Malala Yousafzai, the young Pakistani girl who was shot by the Taliban in 2012 for publicly advocating for the rights of girls to receive an education, remains an outspoken ambassador for the right of girls and women to learn. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in December 2014 and has since then graduated from Oxford University. This quote by Malala carries a similar message to the one from Eva, and is so true for all of us:

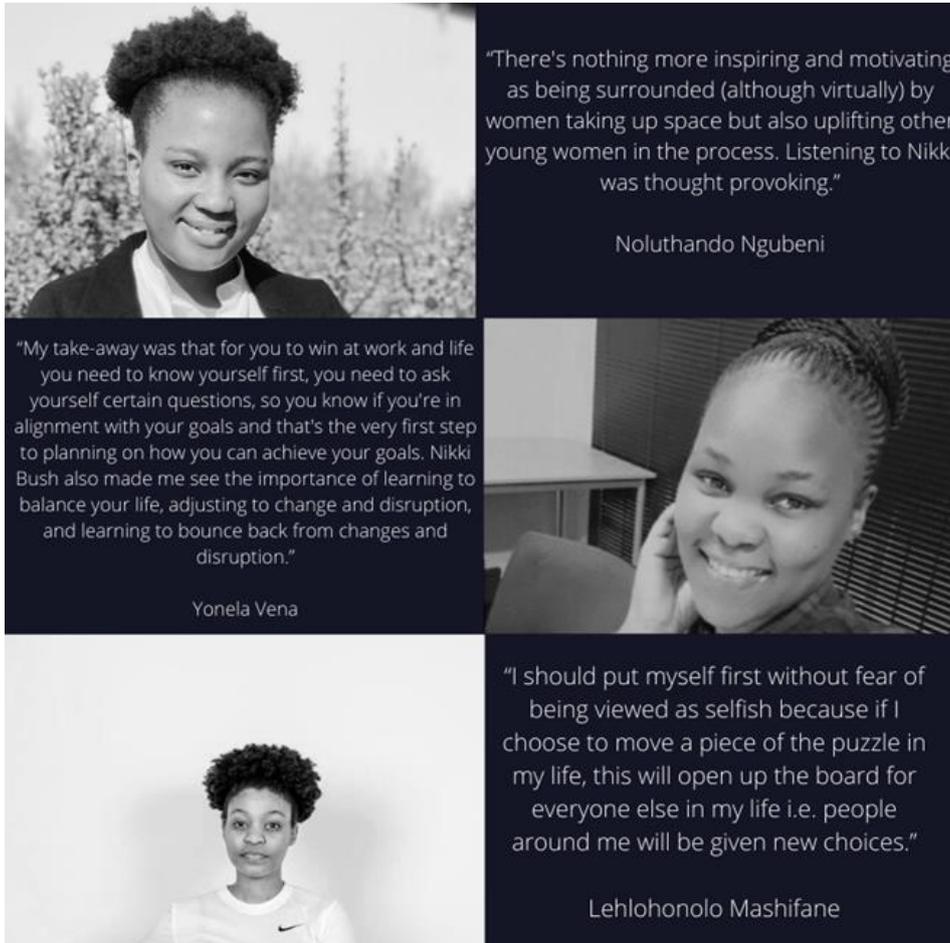
*"For my brothers, it was easy to think about the future. They can be anything they want. But for me it was hard and for that reason I wanted to become educated and empower myself with knowledge."* – Malala Yousafzai

With these two quotes from strong and inspirational women I hope to motivate our female graduates and professionals to keep on learning and developing themselves.

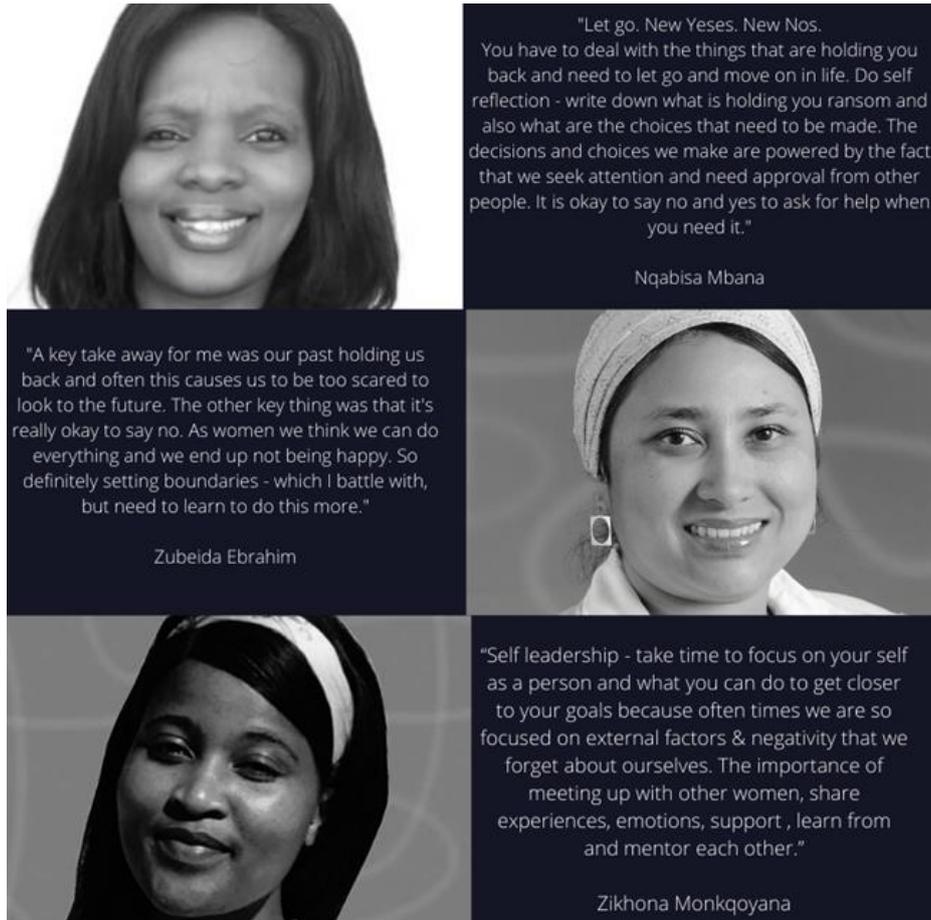
I am proud of the work that we do at the ASISA Academy to provide a learning platform for both graduates starting out and already skilled industry employees wanting to further develop their skills. I am grateful for all my team members, female as well as male, who all share my passion for creating learning opportunities for more women.

## Women in Finance

I would like to thank the [Women in Finance Network](#) for regularly sponsoring female graduates enrolled in the ASISA Academy [Independent Financial Advisor \(IFA\)](#) Internship to attend their online networking events. In August, the Women in Finance Network sponsored three female IFA interns to attend an online presentation by Nikki Bush, author of the book *Future-proof yourself – How to win at work and life*. The three interns – Lehlohonolo Mashifane, Noluthando Ngubeni and Yonela Vena – provided us with this feedback:



Three ASISA Academy Course Coordinators who work tirelessly in the background to make sure all our programmes run smoothly also attended the event. This is what they had to say post the event:



We would also like to acknowledge Siyamthanda Dywili, currently interning at MapheQ Financial Solutions in East London, for passing her RE5 examinations and receiving her certificate. These exams test the candidate's knowledge of the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services (FAIS) Act and the Financial Intelligence Centre Act (FICA). The RE5 certificate together with the experience gained on the IFA internship provide interns with a strong foundation on which to build should they wish to pursue the board exams that qualify them to become fully-fledged advisors.



Siyamthanda Dywili, a 2021 IFA intern who passed her RE5 examinations.

## IFA internship applications are now open

The ASISA Academy [Independent Financial Advisor \(IFA\) Internship](#) was launched in 2016 with the aim of providing young black graduates interested in pursuing a career in financial planning with the opportunity to intern with established IFA practices for 12 months. The internship is funded by a number of ASISA members.

University students interested in applying for the seventh ASISA Academy IFA Internship starting in February 2022 are encouraged to [submit their application](#) before 15 September 2021. Successful interns will be placed with host practices in Bloemfontein, Cape Town, Durban, East London, Gqeberha and Johannesburg.

## IMACS@TSiBA Internship

On Friday, 13 August 2021, the 11th group of students from TSiBA, a Cape Town-based not-for-profit higher education institution, embarked on our 2021/2022 [IMACS@TSiBA Internship](#). Designed by our industry and delivered by expert practitioners, the internship creates a pipeline of work ready graduates who have a practical understanding of the investment administration environment and its systems.

The nine second year TSiBA Bachelor in Business Administration (BBA) students will be participating in courses designed for the IMACS@TSiBA Internship over the next 12 months while completing their BBA degrees. Those who successfully complete all their courses proceed to interning at one of the sponsors of this internship. A big thank you goes to Allan Gray, Coronation, Futuregrowth, Prescient, Prudential, Sanlam and Taquanta for their ongoing support of this internship.

Since 2011, some 114 TSiBA students have completed the programme. The ASISA Academy would like to thank the ASISA member companies that sponsor at least one or two students each year and then go on to employ them following their internships.

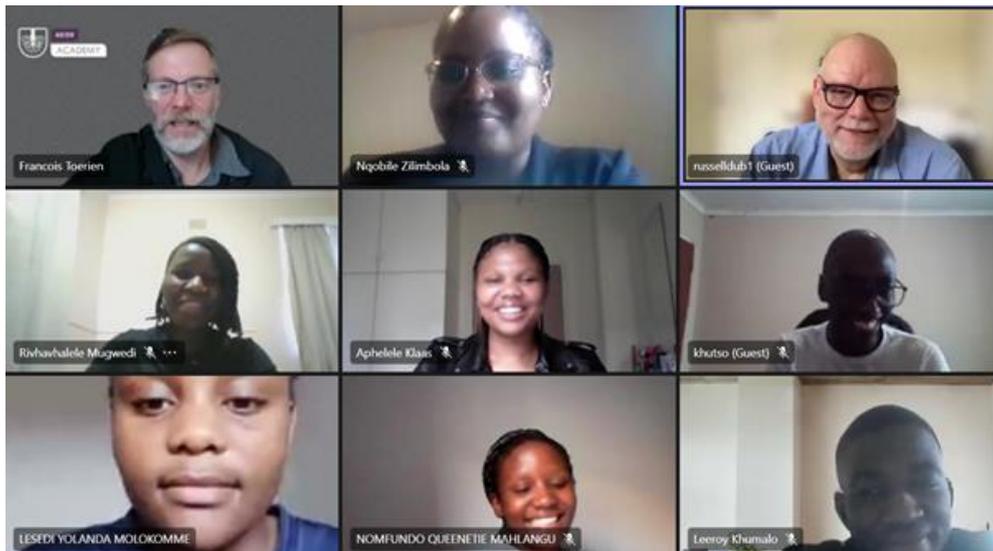


*The nine second year TSiBA Bachelor in Business Administration (BBA) students who are participating in the 2021/2022 IMACS@TSiBA Internship, pictured above with Lisa-Nicole Smith (in the centre) who has been studying from her hospital bed.*

Since the focus of this Newsflash is on women willing to sacrifice and persevere, often under difficult circumstances, to further their education we would like to include a special shout out to Lisa-Nicole Smith, one of our TSiBA students who has been studying from her hospital bed for the past four weeks while recovering from major surgery. You are showing absolute grit and determination to keep learning while in a challenging situation. We are so proud of you!

## ABSIP Sprint

The ASISA Academy presented an Investment Management Ethics Sprint to student members of the Association of Black Securities and Investment Professionals (ABSIP) in August. The workshop was sponsored by Foord Investment Management.



Some of the ABSIP students attending the ASISA Academy Investment Management Ethics Sprint pictured above with Academy Programme Champion, Francois Toerien (top left) and UCT CIS Short Course Programme Champion, Russell du Bois (top right).

## Shariah Investing Blitzcamp

We have been developing the [Shariah Investing Blitzcamp](#) for some time and are very pleased with the positive feedback received from the 11 delegates who attended the inaugural half-day Blitzcamp on 5 August 2021.

*"Thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and it helped clarify some aspects. Thank you for a very useful presentation."*

*"I would definitely attend more of the courses Faried presents. Thank you Faried and ASISA Academy for this very engaging and insightful workshop."*

The introductory workshop aims to provide delegates with an overview of Shariah investing, its origins, how to implement and administer Shariah compliant investments and the relevant governance considerations. The next Blitzcamp will be delivered online on Thursday, 21 October 2021, by Faried Boltman, who has extensive industry experience in Shariah Investing.



Some of the delegates who attended the ASISA Academy Shariah Investing Blitzcamp pictured above with Academy presenter, Faried Boltman and Course Coordinator, Nqabisa Mbana, top left.

### The following courses were presented in August

1. The [UCT Life Insurance Claims Assessors' Short Course](#) is in its second month with a group of 14 delegates attending from South Africa as well as neighbouring countries. The courses finishes in November 2021.
2. Our popular [UCT Collective Investment Schemes \(CIS\)](#) Short Course was presented over nine mornings in August, together with the [UCT Investment Management Administration & Client Servicing \(IMACS\)](#) Short Course.
3. We ran the following online 2-hour [Investment Sprints](#):
  - Public: Fundamentals of other asset classes
  - Public: Fundamentals of equity operations
  - Inhouse: Fundamentals of other asset classes x 2
  - Inhouse: Fundamentals of equity operations
4. The following [Retirement Fund Trustee Education \(RFTE\)](#) workshops were presented to a total of 138 delegates:
  - Tshwane Municipal Pension Fund - Death Benefits, Trustee Governance & Ethics Part 1
  - Clicks Group - Trustee Governance & Ethics Part 1 & 2
  - Institute of Retirement Funds Africa (IRFA) – POPIA
  - Public workshop - Investment Fundamentals Part 1 & 2

## Upcoming courses

### 1. Consumer Financial Education (CFE) Practitioner Blitzcamps:

The [Consumer Financial Education \(CFE\) Practitioner Blitzcamps](#) are delivered online by experienced programme champion, Jolly Mokorosi. Each of the following four Blitzcamps is designed to equip individuals who lead and manage in the area of CFE:

- Introduction to CFE - 10 September 2021
- Engaging Stakeholders - 30 September 2021
- Digital CFE - 7 October 2021
- Behavioural Economics - 14 October 2021

### 2. RFTE public workshops

CPD points-bearing RFTE workshops are available on a fully funded basis to South African trustees and principal officers. The September schedule is available [here](#).

## Choose vaccination – help open the economy

In July I shared with you the huge sense of relief I felt after receiving my first dose of the Pfizer vaccination, knowing that I had taken the first step towards protecting my loved ones and those who are vulnerable from Covid-19. I am happy to report that I am now fully vaccinated and would like to urge all of you to do the same. The registration process is easy and can be completed [here](#).

## Learn with us in 2021

The ASISA Academy is recognised as a Level 1 B-BBEE contributor, with more than 75% of the Academy's beneficiaries being black South Africans. This means that employers can claim 135% of their skills development spend with the ASISA Academy. Please feel free to [contact us](#) to discuss how we can support your skills development requirements.

Please visit our [website](#) for more information on our many learning opportunities and like our [Facebook page](#) for regular updates. We also invite you to interact with us on [LinkedIn](#).

Best wishes

Alicia Davids

**ASISA Academy CEO**