



# GALLAGHER FOUNDATION

*Peace & Prosperity Through Education*

November 2016

## WHAT'S NEW AT THE GALLAGHER FOUNDATION?



### **Congratulations to our recent ITESM Graduates:**

*José Héctor Ramírez Suárez and Adriana Ivonne Castro Reyes*

### **Congratulations to our recent Bogazici Graduates:**

*Umut Ünal, Sila Baştürk, Samet Budak, Gökhan Gündüz, Mehmet Ali Hakan, Begüm Kılınçoğulları, and Murat Kaan Velet*

### **We have Scholars in Mexico, South Africa and Turkey**

- 183 Total Scholars
- 23 Current Scholars in Mexico
- 29 Current Scholars in South Africa
- 18 Current Scholars in Turkey
- 113 Graduated Scholars

## MEET A CURRENT SCHOLAR

### **NELLY AMAIRANY HERNANDEZ VALDEZ**

Nelly Hernandez (2015) is an International Relations Scholar at ITESM in Mexico. Her biggest challenge at ITESM has been the reality that every day only has 24 hours. Each day brings a new challenge, but she has found that with those challenges she acquires new tools, knowledge and experience. In her free time, Nelly enjoys Tae Kwon Do, rock-climbing, acting, and outdoor activities.

Recently, Nelly was selected as a Youth Delegate to represent Mexico in the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York City. Through her involvement with the Youth Delegate Program, she provides input around issues related to youth. In addition, Nelly works with a second committee focused on issues related to the Economic and Social Council. Her involvement with the Youth Delegate Program has provided her the opportunity to engage in intergenerational and intercultural dialogue focused on the achievement of important global and local solutions.

Nelly anticipates graduating in 2019. After graduation she would like to travel; to better understand the world and build tolerance for diversity. Her goal is to work with the Mexican Foreign Service or to become a politician in Mexico, while continuing to act in films that engage audiences in topics that bring social awareness.

Nelly's hope for Mexico: "That under collective action we strengthen the Rule of Law, to create inclusive societies, close corruption loopholes, accelerate economic development and ensure not only the implementation but the RESULT of human rights."



## MEET A GRADUATED SCHOLAR

### **MVI HLOPHE**

Since graduating from The University of Cape Town in 2008, with a Bachelor of Business Science, Mvi worked for EY (formerly Ernst & Young) while becoming a chartered accountant. After completing his articles, he spent another year at EY as a corporate advisor on the firm's corporate finance team. In 2013 he joined a listed investment company called Brimstone Investment Corporation where he has been instrumental in the start up and running of a buyout company called South African Enterprise Development ("SAED"), investing in high potential medium sized companies looking to get to the next level.

Mvi has come to realize that failing is inevitable, but being a failure is an avoidable choice. The difference between the two is the moment one chooses to give up. Having a prepared mind around failure has helped Mvi approach it differently. It has taught him to always look to lessons that will help him in his next attempt. Failing forward is the key to sustainable successes. If you're not failing, you're not pushing your own boundaries.

In his view, the biggest threat to South African democracy and future prosperity is poverty, unemployment and inequality. Mvi believes the most effective way to address this is to improve access to quality education and foster economic growth. Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) contribute around 40% of SA's gross domestic product, employ more than half of the private sector workforce, and create an estimated 80% of all new jobs. This has led to Mvi and two other partners to found the South African Business Angel Network ("SABAN"), a non-profit organization with the aim of fostering angel investing in South Africa.

Mvi shares the following words of advice to Gallagher Scholars, "When you're younger, you often believe you can be anything and achieve anything you set your mind to. Do not lose your fire—that passion you have for your community and for your people. As you experience life, the world will do its best to convince you that your goals are unrealistic and that your ideas are of the young and the foolish. Learn from these experiences, but stay young and stay foolish in your aspirations; because those are the people who drive a nations progress."





## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Despite news media reports there is a lot of good in the world today. Literacy rates are rising, poverty rates are dropping, and violent crime is lower than it has ever been.

That being said, we have a long way to go. All of our countries face significant hurdles. Currently, Turkey is in a State of Emergency filled with the uncertainty of a drastically changing political landscape. South Africa faces economic instability and their educational system is at a major crossroads with UCT and other universities facing shut downs due to student protests. In Mexico, violent crime has decreased, but the drug cartel continues to plague the country. In the United States, race relations trouble our society, our Presidential election was appalling, and though our overall violent crime rates are lower than ever, mass shootings have become too common.

Despite all of this, I believe there is more good in the world than bad. I believe the mission of the Gallagher Foundation is stronger and more necessary than ever. What the world needs are strong, smart and ethical leaders. It's tough to hear the news or read the paper describing all the challenges our countries face. I am more confident than ever that young leaders like Gallagher Scholars are going to change the world.

Kindest Regards,  
Megan Prindiville

## OTHER NEWS TO NOTE



Turkish Scholars celebrate at the Turkish Graduation dinner



Sıla Baştürk and team at the CFA Research Challenge in Chicago



Dave Schroenn speaks to the South African Scholars and Graduates at the Scholar dinner



Mexican Scholars gather at this year's Altar Gathering in honor of Jerry



Palesa and Lethabo are qualified Pediatricians



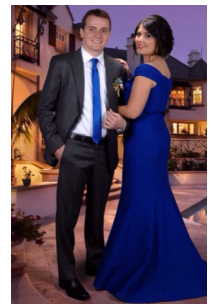
Bushra Cakir



Umut and Sibel on their wedding day



Graduates, Zipho and Trevor, joined the South African interview team



Pelın Pınar's engagement photo

## Congratulations to:

- **Palesa Monyake (2003)** and **Lethabo Simelani (2002)** completed their specializations and are now fully qualified Pediatricians.
- **Sıla Baştürk** traveled to Chicago with the CFA Research Challenge Boğazici University Team for an equity research challenge.
- **Umut Unal (2011)** married Sibel on September 4th.
- **Omer Cakir (2005)** and his wife Nurseda had a baby girl, Bushra Cakir.
- **Pelın Pınar (2007)** is engaged and will be married next year.
- Graduates, **Zipho Sikhakhane (2005)** and **Trevor Chuma (2003)**, joined the South African interview team to select new South African Scholars.
- **Trevor Chuma (2003)** opened his second business, an African Cuisine and Grill restaurant, Mkhaya, in Johannesburg. Stop by if you are in town. [www.mkhaya.com.za](http://www.mkhaya.com.za)