



# GALLAGHER FOUNDATION

*Young Educated Leaders Will Bring Peace and Prosperity to the World*

MARCH 2021



## WHAT'S NEW AT THE GALLAGHER FOUNDATION?

**Congratulations to our 2020 ITESM Graduates:** Erick Manuel González, Luis Ángel Correa, Jesús Zazueta Reyna, María Teresa García Villalpando, Orlando Nájera Andrade, Tomás Arenas Reyes

**Congratulations to our 2020 UCT Graduates:** Michelle Moya Anderson, Cwayita Kweyi, Thembisile Ndlovu, Nathina Sandisiwe Pakade, Nontobeko Nonjabulo Silindelo Zikali

**Congratulations to our 2020 Boğaziçi Graduates:** Vildan Baydur, Ceren Filiz Eser, Özge Pehlivan, Aysemin Yaşar, Merve Yıldırım, Refik Yıldız

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

Total Scholars: 241

Current Scholars: 65

Graduated Scholars: 176

Current Scholars in Mexico: 21

Current Scholars in South Africa: 25

Current Scholars in Turkey: 19

## MEET A CURRENT SCHOLAR

### Luxolo Mdolo

**Luxolo Mdolo (2019)** is taking a break in his medical studies at the University of Cape Town this year to pursue an honours year in research. He is grateful for the platform that university has provided to be educated academically and through other learning activities—leadership positions, sports, work experiences and making friends.

Outside of class, Luxolo enjoys playing and coaching soccer. He started a football club for kids in his neighborhood during the COVID lockdown that he continues to manage while back at school. Through his YouTube channel and performing live, Luxolo is able to share his love of singing and poetry. Luxolo also serves as a class representative, co-founder of an NGO (Live to Inspire) which provides mentoring to high school students, and as a student wellness representative at UCT working to break the stigma and empower students to care for their mental health.

After graduating from UCT, Luxolo plans to give back to the schools and programs that helped him get to where he is now and develop a soccer academy. Luxolo wants to empower the youth of South Africa, bring back dignity to their homes and plant seeds of unity in the children of South Africa. Being a Gallagher Scholar means everything to Luxolo, providing a family away from home, nurturing a vision in his head and turning his struggles into success stories. It has inspired Luxolo to live to inspire others. Through the experience of being a Gallagher Scholar, he has become motivated to ask, "How can I help? How can I contribute? How can I make a difference in someone's life?". Luxolo says, "Being a Gallagher Scholar has made me willing to do more because I have been given more."



## MEET A GRADUATED SCHOLAR

### İlayda Mutlu

**İlayda Mutlu (2010)** graduated with majors in Guidance/Psychological Counseling and Preschool Education from Boğaziçi in 2017. While working as a psychological counselor at a teaching institution and as an intern clinical psychologist at a university, she completed her Masters degree. As a Clinical Psychologist in private practice now, İlayda considers therapists to be facilitators to wellness, helping people reach their optimized lives, whatever that means for each individual. Guiding people in this way helps İlayda feel she has an indirect impact on the world.

İlayda believes that Turkey needs young leaders who are open to hearing the voices of others, who can speak about their values without violating others, and are not afraid of defending universal ethical values and who are advocates of human rights for everyone. İlayda's advice for current scholars: "Don't give up on your dream. Life can be tough but acknowledging what you desire helps. If you are experiencing difficulties in your path, express it your own way—write about it, speak about it, paint it, whatever helps you."

Being a Gallagher Scholar made İlayda's university journey incredibly beautiful, surrounded by people who supported her in reaching her dreams and encouraging her to become a better citizen of the world. "It is priceless to know that I will always have this community's emotional support and unconditional acceptance by my side."





### A LETTER FROM THE GALLAGHER FOUNDATION

This month the Gallagher Foundation’s 20th generation/cohort began their first year of undergraduate studies at the University of Cape Town. So much has changed since we welcomed our first generation/cohort of scholars back in 2002. That first cohort included Kgomotso Nakene, Lethabo Machaba-Simelani, Wayne Moodaley, Tiisetso Mphahlele, Sinazo Maqhutyana (tragically passed away in 2011), and Buhle Mdanda. As I was thinking about this, I went to our database to see what our application and interview questions looked like back then. The interview questions and answers were handwritten by my Dad. I am sure he came up with the questions on the long flight to South Africa. We still ask a few of the same questions in our interviews today. My father’s interview notes are just what I expected, with numerous notations about the characteristics he observed in each candidate. At the end of the day, it does not matter what career path or title you have. What matters is the type of person you are.

To my Dad, being a good person and doing the right thing guided every decision he made. Character matters, especially at a time when our world is so polarized.

Kind regards - Megan

### SCHOLAR NEWS:

- **Leathabo Machaba-Simelani (2002)** serves as a Paediatrician at Sunninghill Netcare Hospital and keeps busy with her family — husband Summer, and children Naledi (6 years old), Nala (nearly 3 years old) and Sumabo (18 months old).
- **Edzani Mphaphuli (2003)** has had a very busy year serving as the Public Health Registrar at the University of Pretoria during the COVID pandemic and welcoming a new member to her family, baby Tumsi who joins Vangsi (9 years old) and U’Tamsi (3 years old).
- **Ömer Faruk Çakir (2005)** launched a start-up—FoodDock is a platform that unites farmers and consumers at a local level. Ömer also keeps busy with his daughters, Bushra (age 4) and Meva (10 months old).
- **Erika Paez (2007)** and her husband, Oscar, and children Erikita and Oscarito welcomed baby Daniela to the family this year.
- **Gabriela Miranda García (2008)** started a PhD program in Tübingen, Germany in 2020 in the field of Environmental Physics. She is working on the *Train2Wind* project continuing her path in wind energy after completing her MSc. in Meteorology in the Netherlands.
- **Aldo Favio (2009) and Nelly Amairany Hernández Valdez (2015)** celebrated their civil wedding in December 2020 at the family farm in Durango. About 20 family members and the Gallagher Mexico Country Director attended the ceremony, with the rest of the Mexico Gallagher community joining through Facebook live.
- **Laura Tobias (2011)** completed her Masters in Information Technology Management from UniversidadTecMilenio in December 2020, while continuing to work full time as a project manager at Base22.
- **Valeria Gómez Rodríguez (2014)** was married to Álvaro Zetina Ayala on February 5, 2021.
- **Firat Can Dikme (2015)** was hired by **Ömer Faruk Çakir (2005)** after Firat found the job opportunity listed on GSGN.



Lethabo and her family



Edzani with her children



Erika and her family



Valeria & Álvaro



Ömer's daughters



The Gallagher Global Team (US Office staff and Country Directors) meet (and laugh a lot) regularly via Zoom.



Nelly and Aldo at their wedding



Laura completes her Masters



Amy Kahl, Megan Prindiville and Ellen Gallagher with the COVID Time Capsule winners—Anhelo Benavides, Nompilo Mpanza, Blessings Dinake. Luxolo Mdolo