



DA
YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAMME

Class of 2014

Born and raised in Cape Town, **Anneke Scheepers** attended Parow High School. She later attended the University of Stellenbosch where she completed a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities, majoring in Politics and Philosophy.

While pursuing postgraduate studies through UNISA, Anneke began writing articles for the SA-PolSci website. SA-PolSci led to an opportunity for Anneke to become a blogger for News24. While Anneke no longer writes for SA-PolSci she remains involved through editing and providing feedback on written pieces to graduates who currently write for the platform. Through this she is able to contribute to the writing of aspiring political scientists.

Aside from editing and mentoring, Anneke has also initiated programs with the *Claremont Volunteer* centre. Anneke is committed to serving the community and raised funds to donate food and other necessities to the Philippi Children's home.

In her current role at the DA National Head Office, Anneke does media monitoring. This involves analysing and reporting on the party's media presence.



Brendon May was born in Port Elizabeth in 1988 and at the age of 15 he moved to Johannesburg with his family where he attended Glenvista High School.

Due to financial difficulties, Brendon left high school and later enrolled at Damelin College, completing his Higher International General Secondary Education Certificate, obtaining two distinctions in the process. He is currently enrolled at UNISA studying towards a LLB Degree.

Brendon joined the DA upon completion of his secondary certificate and served in a number of roles, including Youth Leader of his branch and Youth Leader of the Florida Constituency in Johannesburg.

Currently Brendon is employed by the DA as a Constituency Support Office Manager for the Gauteng West Region.

Brendon has also been involved in charity organisations such as the *Be a Friend Foundation* and the *South African Riding for the Disabled Association* where he displayed leadership through organising fundraising events.



Born in Ekurhuleni in 1991, **Busisiwe Radebe** matriculated from Fumana Comprehensive School in 2009.

Unable to further her studies due to family commitments, she spent most of her free time as a volunteer at the *Katlehong Community Library* where she developed a passion for empowering young people.

In 2011 she joined the Democratic Alliance and shifted her attention to political activism.

Through her positions as Constituency Youth Chair and Branch Chair she introduced youth empowerment workshops and initiated sporting codes aimed at youth development.

Busisiwe has been employed by the DA as a Constituency Support Officer since 2012.

She has a great love for poetry, from William Wordsworth to Don Mattera. She believes that the DA Young Leaders Programme will enable her to be a catalyst in her mission to develop young South Africans into empowered citizens who will one day make this country great.



Ewald Botha was born in Stellenbosch in 1985 and matriculated from De Kuilen High in 2003 where he chaired the Student Representative Council.

He furthered his studies at Stellenbosch University obtaining a Bachelors degree in Value and Policy Studies, followed by an Honours degree in Political Science.

In 2010, Ewald began working for the DA as a researcher in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament's media office. In 2013, he moved to National Parliament where he now works as a DA Research and Communications Officer.

Ewald is actively involved in the DA's City Bowl branch where he served as Deputy Chairperson for two years. He was also co-opted onto the Good Hope Constituency Executive.

Ewald strives to find the balance and to living his best life possible. He considers the DA Young Leaders Programme an excellent opportunity to learn more about the DA and from his fellow Young Leaders.



Franco Marais was born in 1989 and matriculated from Worcester Gymnasium in 2007 where he had the opportunity to serve as a student leader.

After school he enrolled for a BSc in Food Science, majoring in Biochemistry and Product Development at the University of Stellenbosch. While at Stellenbosch, Franco was involved in community development on a residence and campus level.

In 2010 Franco was elected to serve on the House Committee of his residence and was elected as Head Student of his residence in his final year.

Following graduation in 2012, Franco became an active member of the Democratic Alliance in youth empowerment in the Drakenstein Constituency, raising awareness among young professionals by communicating the DA's vision. Franco works as a Food Technologist.



Born in Benoni in 1993 **James Lotter** matriculated from St. Dunstan's College in 2011.

In 2012, James commenced his Bachelor of Arts at the University of Pretoria. In his 1st year, James made history by being the first first-year to be elected as Chairperson of Tuks' LGBTIA society, *Up and Out*, where he routed out and exposed corruption and maladministration that occurred during the previous executive's term.

After his first year, James switched to a Bachelor of Political Science. In the same year, James was elected as Chairperson of DASO Tuks. Here he made a significant contribution to the Student Governance Constitutional review process, community projects, DASO Tuks' Student Representative Council campaign and ran for a SRC position as a DASO candidate.

James hopes to one day serve as a DA public representative in a local, provincial or national legislature.



Born in Johannesburg in 1986, **Jessica Shelver** is currently pursuing a BA in International Relations and Diplomacy and works for the Democratic Alliance. Upon finishing school, Jessica travelled through East Africa before residing in the United Kingdom. She spent her early years focusing on travel, people and building experience while working for a British Israeli Communications and Research Centre.

Her political emergence started when she joined the DA Abroad as Membership and Affiliations Officer. In this role she played a fundamental part in lobbying for the right of South Africans living abroad to vote.

Jessica co-founded the *Ubunye-Unity Trust* in 2011, a charity set up to bring about positive change in South Africa and became campaign manager for the *Adopt a School* Programme – the charity’s inaugural project. Jessica also volunteers for the *United Nations Association of Young Professionals*. In 2012 Jessica won the South African Chamber of Commerce Rising Star of the Year, and was also named one of the top 13 African Business/Economic Leaders to watch in 2013.



Kabelo Mogatosi grew up in Rustenburg where he matriculated from JM Ntsime High School in 2003. He recently moved to Port Elizabeth to pursue his passion in the built environment.

Since joining the DA in 2011, Kabelo has served in various leadership roles and currently serves as the Deputy Chairperson in his ward.

He is a former DASO NMMU Vice-Chairperson and Branch Chairperson. Having led the biggest and best performing branch in the country in 2012, he was appointed as Campaign Manager, where DASO secured a historic victory.

Kabelo is passionate about enabling others to realize their dreams. His ultimate goal is to serve in government at a national level and sees the DA Young Leaders Programme as a valuable opportunity to gain the necessary knowledge that will help refine his leadership skills to reach his goals.

In addition to his leadership roles, he is an avid reader of Setswana literature and enjoys still- life painting, landscape photography as well as travelling the countryside .



Born in Cape Town in 1985 **Kristina Miller** matriculated from Herschel Girls High in 2002. After matriculating, Kristina was chosen to represent South Africa as a Rotary Exchange student in Australia, where she spent 2003 working on fundraising and outreach projects.

Following her return, she attended the University of Cape Town, where she graduated in 2006 with a Bachelor of Social Science in Clinical and Industrial Psychology. While studying, Kristina became involved in *Habitat for Humanity* and was involved in several RAG projects which raised over R1m. Kristina later graduated from UCT in 2011 with a MPhil in Labour Law.

Since 2007, Kristina has been employed in the Health and Safety field. Currently, she is employed by EOH as a Health and Safety Law Specialist and consultant to some of the largest South African companies and parastatals.

The DA Young Leaders Programme presents a great opportunity to Kristina to use her skills to effect change to urban health in a local context as well as mould her as an individual through personal development and improved leadership skills.



Lucky Dinake was born in Johannesburg in 1994. He matriculated from Primrose High School in 2012 where he served as Deputy Chairperson of the Student Council and the Head of community outreach. He went on to attend Boston College, obtaining a diploma in HIV/Aids Counselling and Management in 2013. He is currently studying towards a Bachelor of Laws degree at UNISA.

Following his passion for education and the arts, Lucky has developed a Conversational English & Culture curriculum, which he teaches to foreign nationals in the Bedfordview area. He also coordinates the senior training programme at the *SA Kushindo Karate Organisation*. Lucky is co-founder of the *Sashlin Theatre Group* which seeks to bring social education to school children through the arts.

In his role as leader of the Bedfordview DA Youth, Lucky has championed political and social involvement among the youth. The Bedfordview DAY branch has collaborated with residents to launch a project called *Take Back The Mountain* which mobilised the community to clean and rehabilitate the Bill Stewart Nature Reserve. Lucky also serves his community as a Trauma Counsellor at the Bedfordview South African Police Service.



Born in Mpumalanga in 1991 **Lyrics Mazibuko** matriculated from Dlomo Dlomo Secondary School in 2009, where he was actively involved as Chairperson of the Debating Society and as Head Boy.

As his school's top performing learner, Lyrics was selected to the University of the Witwatersrand pre-university programme which targeted the best high school learners across Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Limpopo.

Lyrics is currently completing his third year in Industrial Psychology at the University of Johannesburg, where he was elected as Chairman of DASO. He is also completing an internship with *Beyond Tomorrow* as a Programme Administrator, assisting with coordinating corporate social investment projects.

Through his passion for leadership, Lyrics founded various community engagement projects that focus on skills and leadership development in impoverished communities in both Gauteng and Mpumalanga.

As a public speaker, Lyrics has addressed a wide spectrum of audiences.



Mathew Cuthbert was born in Pretoria in 1993 and matriculated from Lyttelton Manor High School in 2011.

He is presently pursuing a degree in International Relations at the University of Pretoria which he is due to complete in 2014. Upon completion, he intends to further his studies in Political Science.

Mathew was elected as the Vice-Chairperson of the Faculty House of Humanities where he spearheaded both the Marketing and Social portfolios. In 2013, he was elected as the DASO Tuks branch leader. During this time, Mathew ran the DASO Tuks SRC campaign with the party achieving a majority on the SRC. Mathew is also the Youth Chairperson for the Centurion constituency and a member of the DAY Gauteng North Regional Executive.

Preoccupied with grass roots activism, Mathew believes that old fashioned clipboard and hard canvassing achieves the results that win elections.

As hobbies, he spends time furthering his interests through reading, sport and history. He is an avid fan of Manchester City FC and is particularly interested in African history.



Born in Newcastle, KwaZulu Natal in 1983 **Melika Singh** matriculated from Raisethorpe Secondary School in 2001.

She went on to attend the University Of KwaZulu Natal where she graduated with a Bachelor of Social Science Degree in 2005 and a Bachelor of Social Science Honours Degree in 2006. In 2006, Melika was awarded the Mandela Rhodes Scholarship. She further obtained a Master of Social Science Degree (Industrial Psychology) in 2009.

Melika is registered with the *Health Professions Council of South Africa* as an Industrial Psychologist. She is currently an independent practice industrial psychologist in Pietermaritzburg specialising in medico-legal assessments and reports, career assessments and loss of earnings assessment.

Melika has been involved in many student leadership initiatives. In addition to her interest in industrial psychology and academics, Melika is interested in politics, Christianity and enjoys reading. Melika hopes that the DA Young Leaders Programme will prepare her to impact the political landscape in a constructive way.



Melusi Ngobeni was born in Johannesburg in 1988. He matriculated from St. Catherine High School in 2007 and completed his Honours Degree in Financial Management at the University of Johannesburg in 2012.

While at university, Melusi excelled academically and was recognized as one of the top 100 students in his first year. Melusi was a National Research Foundation scholarship recipient which enabled him to complete his post graduate degree.

Since completing his studies, Melusi has been working in the public sector within the budget and treasury offices of one of the biggest municipalities in Gauteng. He is currently working at a state organization involved in the energy sector.

Melusi dreams of a South Africa where economic prosperity is spread among different provinces, cities, towns and suburbs. He also hopes for an education system that ensures South African students are ranked among the best mathematics and science student in the world.



Mzukisi Oyama Dyantyi matriculated from Umtata High School in 2007. In 2012, he completed a Bachelor of Commerce degree in Economics and Management at Rhodes University. During his time at university, Mzukisi was active in residence leadership structures and served on the Student Representative Council in 2011.

Mzukisi became part of the DA in 2013 and is currently employed as a researcher for the DA in the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature. This position has afforded him a first-hand view of the operations of a legislature and also presented him the opportunity to become actively involved in assisting the DA to perform its oversight function within the province through a commitment to providing thorough research for the portfolio committees assigned to him. He is also the Coordinator of Strategic Markets in Mpumalanga, driving the DA's message of an Open Opportunity Society for All into areas that have been neglected by the current administration.

Mzukisi has a love for South African economics, and hopes to one day be involved in fiscal policy formulation and to assist in improving the efficiency of all state organs, particularly local government where service delivery happens.



Peter Helfrich matriculated from Zandvliet High School in 2005. He completed an internship through the Wholesale and Retail SETA and graduated top of his class in 2007.

Peter was employed by MassMart/WalMart in 2007 and was promoted to a senior managerial position in 2010.

Peter shares the values of the DA and became a staff member of the DA as a Community Operations Manager in 2011.

Peter has also been involved with water safety programmes through Lifesaving South Africa and Swimming South Africa since 2000.

He is the founder of a NPO known as the *Helderberg Learn-to-Swim Academy* and currently serves as the Chairperson and Interim Chief Executive Officer of the Academy.

Peter believes that the DA Young Leaders Programme is a great opportunity to develop his leadership skills and advance the contribution that he is able to offer to realize the DA's vision of an Open Opportunity Society for All.



Originally from Pietermaritzburg, **Pierre Buckley** lived in Johannesburg for most of his primary and secondary schooling. Currently he is a second year student, majoring in Politics and Communications. Pierre also hold qualifications in Public Relations and Vocal Training.

Pierre has been an active member of the DA and DA Youth since 2011. In the same year he was elected acting Chairperson and currently serves as DA Youth Chairperson in the Midlands, as well as the provincial Secretary of the KZN DA Youth structures. Pierre also served as an executive member on the DA Midlands Constituency between 2011 and 2013.

In addition to politics, Pierre is involved in various community initiatives. These include being an activist and board member of *the Pietermaritzburg Children's Home* and the *Gay and Lesbian Network*. Spiritually, he is a committed member of St. Luke's Anglican Church and offers assistance in the Human Interest and Youth teams.



Born in Mount Frere in the Eastern Cape in 1988, **Pumza Marubelela** grew up in Kokstad and matriculated from Wendywood High in Johannesburg in 2005.

Pumza attended the University of Cape Town where she graduated in 2010 with a Bachelor of Social Science degree with majors in Political Science, Media and Writing. In 2011, Pumza started a small business from home selling handbags and extended the business by opening a store in 2012.

Through her passion for South Africa and people, she is currently involved in ministry in her church, reaching out to her local community, particularly to the young homeless youth.

In addition to her background in business, Pumza is also interested theater, audio drama and African choral/gospel music. She has dreams of traveling the continent and exploring the innovative ways people use urban spaces. Pumza considers the DA Young Leaders Programme to be a great opportunity to advance her capabilities as a leader and merge her passions for solving urban issues, with opportunities for youth in South Africa and Africa.



René Meyer was born in Port Elizabeth in 1991 and matriculated from Framesby High in 2009. She attended Damelin College where she studied Conference, Exhibition and Event Management.

While at Damelin, René was involved with many charities such as *Childline and Animal Welfare*. She also assisted to raise R25 000 for the *Isithembiso Home*, a home for abandoned and orphaned babies in Port Elizabeth.

René joined the Democratic Alliance in 2011. She held the position of Constituency Elections Coordinator before becoming the Community Operations Manager for the DA Youth and DASO in the Eastern Cape.

In addition to her background in events management, René is also interested in photography and cares deeply for the people around her. René believes that the DA Young Leaders Programme will improve her capabilities as a leader in her job, as well as in her everyday life.



Ruhan Robinson was born in Balfour, Mpumalanga, in 1990 and matriculated from Hoërskool Oosterlig in 2008.

In 2009, Ruhan started studying at the University of Pretoria and obtained a B.Com Law degree with majors in Financial Accounting and Management Accounting in 2012. He completed his LLB in 2013.

Ruhan is passionate about government accountability, which prompted him to do a final year dissertation on the effectiveness of Municipal Public Accounts Committees. Additionally, Ruhan is an aspirant candidate for the DA to the National Assembly and Gauteng Provincial Legislature.

Within the DA, he holds positions on the Gauteng East Regional Executive Committee, Gauteng Provincial Committee and Federal Council. He is also involved in activist activities in the Boksburg constituency. Previously, he was active in both DASO and the DA Youth.

He hopes to utilise the skills learnt on the Young Leaders Programme to be effective in public office and in service of the party.



William Clayton was born in Bloemfontein in 1990 and grew up in the North West province. In 2010 he matriculated from Ferdinand Postma High School in Potchefstroom.

William attended the University of the Free State, graduating in 2013 with a Bachelors Degree in Political Transformation and Governance. He is currently working towards an Honours Degree in International Relations.

During his time at the University of the Free State, William was chosen as a delegate for the University's prestigious Leadership for Change programme, elected to the DASO Executive in 2010, elected as Provincial DA Youth Leader in 2011, elected to the Student Representative Council in 2012 and thereafter as President of the Student Representative Council in 2013.

William remains involved in politics and is currently serving as a Ward Committee member. He considers the DA's Young Leaders Programme as a cornerstone in his development as a leader and as an opportunity to engage with likeminded individuals about the future of our great nation.



Zarita Naudè was born in Virginia in 1985 and matriculated in 2003 from Hentie Cilliërs High School where she was actively involved in numerous school activities and projects.

After matriculation, she studied at the University of the Free State and completed her Bachelor of Commerce degree in Law in 2008. She was employed at a well-known law firm in Welkom where she was promoted to head of her department while completing her articles.

Zarita was the youngest person in 2011 to be elected as a DA Ward Councillor in Matjhabeng, where she initiated a number of events for the community.

She has also served on the Executive Committee of the Matjhabeng Caucus since 2012. Zarita is part of the Constituency Executive Committee and a member of Provincial Council in the Free State.

In addition to her interest in law, she has a curiosity and passion for different cultures and history. She believes that a fresh outlook on political life in South Africa can bring new advantages.

