



# Global Student Leadership Program

## Changing the way the world works...

### Alumni Magazine

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#### GSL'S VISION

To create a worldwide network of young people serving as local change agents with the self confidence entrepreneurial skills necessary to transform their communities

#### STORIES

#### IN THIS ISSUE

- Update on GSL 2008
- Alumni stories
- Updates on business plans
- Strengthening our network

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We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the inaugural GSL Alumni Magazine. We hope to hear from all of you in the next article. Happy holidays!  
GSL Team.

Greetings to everyone and welcome to our first edition of the **GSL Alumni Magazine!** We are very excited about this new initiative which is meant to strengthen our network, find ways to better support one another, and keep in touch with all developments happening with **GSL**.

#### Welcome!

As we draw close to the end of the year, we are very appreciative of the class of 2008 who came up with the idea of keeping in touch through a newsletter. We hope as you read these articles, they bring back good memories and warm cheer to your hearts. We hope you always remember what you want to see in the world and this inspires all of us to keep striving for the greater good.

#### Alumni on GSL....

#### Confidence...

GSL is a special program that has helped me a lot in terms of my future career, and in developing confidence in my abilities. I am now fearless!

#### Genoveva Mashenene (Africa '07)

#### GSL strengthens my capacity building...

The GSL program in New York has been a special part of my life. In one small place, I've met so many different cultures. I call Manhattanville College "The world in small dimension" or "The Zipped World".

After only six weeks in the GSL program, I gained knowledge, strength, respect, long distance communication and love that now flows around us. I have now returned to Macedonia, in Skopje, where I live and work. I have been part of many projects that support the education of Roma children and youth in Macedonia as well as the protection of both women's and children's rights.

GSL is one of the trainings that has helped me to articulate my dream for social change and discover the tools to make it happen. I am very happy to have started my action plan "Fewer Victims More Brave Women" which I designed during GSL. It supports Romany Women from Skopje-Macedonia who

are victims of domestic violence and connects them to the public institutions that address their issues. My project is implemented in partnership with the Association for Citizens "Sumnal" from Skopje, and financially supported by UNIFEM.

#### Sabina Salimovska (GSL NY '08) Macedonia, Skopje

#### The real side of GSL....

I arrived in Michigan from Manhattanville, where I attended GSL. Congolese families, including some friends and colleagues of mine, were saying that I had been through an important program. Many assumed that if I did not bring something important; at least I might have brought something surprising.

I already knew that my business plan was not something that I should just shelve and admire, but something for which I should look for ways to make it happen. I therefore seized this opportunity to tell everyone what was going on in New York; what GSL really was and why together we should start to make a change.

Today we are now meeting three times a month with sixteen of Congolese youth and adults, talking and trying to find out ways that we think can bring change in the lives of many Congolese people back home.

My business plan idea is being considered along with the idea of building schools that was brought up by one of my friends. We are now putting money together every time we meet in order to start achieving these plans for the future. Also, we believe that with twenty thousand dollars, many things can be achieved in the Congo. That is why I keep praying for this project to happen.

#### Fundi Wisoba (GSL NY '08)

#### Careers....

I now work for The Univers Foundation, which supports non profit organizations engaged in research, public work and social welfare for elderly people. We also have international exchange programs between Japan, Hawaii and Korea.

#### Hanako Iiyama (GSL NY '07)

#### Entrepreneurship...

I have learned many new things from GSL. Through the teachings of the Johari window, I have learnt about other people, at the same time letting others know me. I learned how to think and act beyond my limits through the 9 dots and 4 lines exercise. I learned about other cultures and even learned more about my own culture from others. I am now a leader with entrepreneurial skills to sustain myself and my community. Thank you GSL!

#### Koku Kabanza (GSL Africa '08)



When Ann Marie named me Yoda, at the beginning I felt this as a challenge. It really was and still is a unique opportunity to become everything that we dream to be, because this is just the start of lifetime work. Don't let anything defeat you. The courage is inside you and in the people around you, people who love you like your family, friends and partners. I hope you all make your dreams come true because you know you can never forget to be "impeccable with your words, don't take anything personally, don't make assumptions and always, no matter what or no matter when, always do your best."

#### Words of inspiration from Irma Bautista (GSL LA '08)