

Rumbidzai Kabatebate

Student Pinnacle Award

Vancouver Campus

Rumbidzai Kabatebate is originally from Zimbabwe and graduated from the Vancouver Campus with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration in December 2013. She is the last born and only daughter of Alex and Antonia Kabatebate and is the first in her family to pursue and get higher education. What drew her to this University was the Global Scholars Program in which she received a generous scholarship from the university. Without this scholarship she would not have been able to afford higher education. The prospect of being a Global Scholar, learning and being trained to be a global citizen and leader were all things she was very excited to experience.

“FDU’s environment has the ability to produce leaders that have depth to their characters that exhibit wisdom, intelligence and charisma. FDU’s environment creates opportunities and a sphere of influence that rising leaders can tap into as a resource to learn and mature from; students are equipped to become global leaders that will leave their footprints on this earth. I can safely say I was one of the students that tapped into these resources and this sphere of influence and as a result I discovered myself.”

Rumbidzai has an insatiable passion for people and making a difference in their lives. As a Global Scholar and peacemaker at heart, it is no surprise that her life-long dream was to work for the United Nations or be affiliated with it to some capacity. Driven by this passion, she began the Model United Nations Club at the Vancouver Campus in

2011. Model United Nations (MUN) is a simulation of the United Nations where you represent a country in a UN organ or committee. In March 2012 she organized, trained and led a delegation of 10 people to the World Model United Nations Conference, which is organized by Harvard University every year. This was the first Model United Nations Conference the University had ever been involved in but definitely not the last. She went ahead and organized and trained a small delegation that would participate at the University of British Columbia MUN in January 2012. This became an annual event, and she did the same for delegations that participated in the 2013 and 2014 conferences.

Her dream came true in March 2013, when she had the honor of going to the United Nations Headquarters in New York for the National Model United Nations Conference. She initiated this trip, organized it, and helped select and train the 4-member delegation. To top things off she had the immense honor of being the Head Delegate of the first ever FDU NMUN Delegation that was going to represent the two Island state of Saint-Kitts and Nevis at the UN Headquarters. She helped pick this year’s FDU NMUN Delegation that went to the United Nations, and they won the Distinguished Delegation Award: something she is very proud of. The creation of this club and this experience is one of her greatest accomplishments and something that will always be embedded on her heart as other students will get to fulfill that same dream she had, generations after her. This is a legacy she is proud to have at the Vancouver Campus.

“FDU began to play a major role in my growth and development. I love the fact that

Fairleigh Dickinson University creates an atmosphere for anyone who is willing, to rise up and be a leader. There has always been so much flexibility and room for growth and maturity for students to do so because that is the legacy on which this university was built on."

Model United Nations was not the only thing on her plate during her time at the university. She was a very active student who was always involved in essentially every aspect and life of the school. She was elected as President of the Student Government Association in her second semester of being at the university and served her term from April 2011 – October 2012. At that same time she was also Chair of Community Service of the Rotaract Club of Yaletown. Currently she is the newly elected Director of Community Service and International Affairs for the Rotaract Club of Yaletown for the term Spring 2014 – Spring 2015. She was a member of the soccer team, Dragon Boat team, Long-Boat team, and an Orientation Leader for all the 4 years she was here. She volunteered for the annual Peace Day events, Happiness Day, International Week, Diplomatic Circles only to mention a few. She was also a very involved member of the community as she volunteered for the Shoreline clean-up every semester, the Scotia-Bank AIDS Walk, and many other events as part of Christian City Church.

"I volunteered for anything I could, not for recognition, but simply because I had developed such a love and loyalty towards the school. I had a desire to see this university succeed. The more I served the more I was launched into being a leader on many committees. I learnt very early on that 'service and leadership' are a package and they go hand-in-hand; being a leader actually meant serving others."

Rumbidzai also worked part time at FDU as an Administrative Assistant since 2011 and worked in the Student Services Department as the Activities Coordinator/Student Services Assistant for a year. Rumbidzai has always had a love and passion for students and, above all, for this university. She wants to see this university succeed in all that it does and is very excited to be a part of making that happen as the new Admissions Assistant of the Vancouver Campus. When asked to sum up what FDU means to her she said:

"FDU has played a tremendous role in introducing me to the leader in me I never knew quite existed. In my life, FDU has actually given meaning to the saying "the world is your oyster" because I feel that the university has given me that gift. And this gift is not just for me, but I have been taught and equipped to impart it and share it with the rest of the world."