

A Journey of Perseverance: From Aspiration to Achievement By Felicity Thandiwe



The path to becoming a Chartered Accountant is never an easy one, but it is a journey of transformation—both professionally and personally. My journey was unique. After earning my undergraduate degree, I spent a decade in the professional world before realizing that true career growth demanded more than just experience; it required a professional qualification.

The decision to pursue the Chartered Accountancy path was not taken lightly. It demanded discipline, resilience, and an unshakable commitment. To make it even more challenging, I embarked on this journey while balancing the responsibilities of raising two children. It was a test of time management and organization, but I was determined to prove that nothing is impossible with the right mind-set.

With perseverance, I conquered CTA and ITC on my first attempt. However, the real test came at APC—where, for the first time in my academic journey, I faced failure. That moment was humbling, a pit stop that forced me to reevaluate my approach. But instead of letting it define me, I used it to refine me. APC became more than just an exam; it became the turning point where I sharpened my critical thinking, improved my analysis, and embraced a new mindset of resilience and focus.

Retaking and passing APC was not just a professional victory; it was a testament to the power of perseverance. The lessons I learned through that process shaped me into a stronger, more refined individual—both technically and mentally.

To anyone out there on a similar journey, remember: it is never too late to start. The only thing too late is to never begin. Challenges will come, but they are stepping stones, not stumbling blocks. If I can do it, so can you. Keep going, stay focused, and trust the process—because the reward is worth every sacrifice.





The Journey of Hard Work, Faith and Opportunity By Tapiwa Kuyaziwa



Growing up, I always had an entrepreneurial mindset. Even in kindergarten, I exchanged handmade paper planes for biscuits and sweets. At university, I found ways to ease the financial burden on my parents, running small businesses like renting out beds to fellow students and offering printing services.

These experiences instilled in me the value of hard work, resourcefulness, and perseverance. After graduating with an Accounting degree from MSU in Gweru, I knew I had not yet "arrived." My ambition was to become a Chartered Accountant (CA), seeing it as a gateway to mastering business and entrepreneurship. However, the road was not easy. After an unsuccessful business attempt in Mutare, I moved to Harare, where I took a low-paying job that barely covered my expenses. Despite this, I remained focused and saved for my CTA studies. In 2018, the fees for a single semester were around \$3,750, yet I started with only \$200 and faith. Just as I struggled to reach the full amount, the bursary program was introduced, and by God's grace, I was accepted.

Leaving my job to pursue full-time studies was a leap of faith. The journey was tough, but I saw it as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Through hard work and determination, I excelled—becoming the best Financial Reporting student and ranking in the top five overall in my class. My success continued in the ITC exams, where I placed among the top 10 students in Zimbabwe. These achievements were a testament to the power of persistence and faith.

During my articles with EY, I explored various business ventures, including supplying SAICA handbooks and running an LP gas business. The CA qualification provided me with a strong foundation in building and sustaining businesses. As I moved to the diaspora, I realized that the technical skills gained through the CA journey were transferable worldwide. In Canada, I was able to assist with financial reporting and tax computations by quickly adapting to local regulations. In Dubai, I recognized investment opportunities in privatized companies listed on the stock exchange as the economy is aggressively moving from oil based but tourism based. In the UK, access to finance and business support structures seem to open new avenues for growth.



Reflecting on my journey, I am deeply grateful for the bursary program. It was more than just financial aid—it was an enabler of dreams. Without it, my story could have taken a different path. Today, I use the knowledge and experiences gained to build businesses and help others navigate financial and entrepreneurial challenges. My mentor, Anesu Daka, once told me, "Being a CA is not the end, but a way to the end." Those words continue to resonate with me.

To anyone facing obstacles, I say: never give up, stay positive, work hard, and most importantly, stay focused. Challenges will come, but they should never define you. Success is built on persistence, faith, and the support of those who believe in you. I extend my gratitude to the CAA bursary program, my wife-Tatenda, family, and my dedicated study partners—Charlotte, Masimba, Choga, Wilbert, and Chikomana Tich—who all stood by me on this journey.

We look forward to your continued involvement in this initiative. Together, we can make an even greater impact.

I hope my story serves as encouragement to others, proving that with determination and focus, anything is possible.



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A Call For Bursary Sponsors



Join Us in Shaping the Future of Chartered Accountants: Scholarship Sponsorship

As we reflect on the success and impact of the CAA Full Bursary Facility, it is with immense gratitude that we acknowledge the contributions of our alumni, CAA stuff and individuals who have made this initiative possible. Launched in 2018, the bursary has provided 65 talented students from disadvantaged backgrounds with the opportunity to fulfil their dreams of becoming Chartered Accountants. This life-changing journey has been made possible thanks to the generosity of our alumni, CAA stuff and individuals who have not only served as sponsors but also as mentors, guiding and nurturing the next generation of professionals.

The power of this initiative is undeniable, and its success is a testament to what we can achieve when we come together as a community. Yet, as we celebrate this achievement, we recognize that the journey is far from over. The need for support is greater than ever, and we believe that by joining hands as a community, we can expand this vision and impact even more lives.

A Call for Your Support

We are reaching out to you, our esteemed alumni and the community, to help sustain and grow the CAA Full Bursary Facility. The future of many students depends on your willingness to contribute in any capacity you can, whether through financial support, study materials, or help with the upkeep of students during their CTA journey.

How You Can Make a Difference:

- **Financial Sponsorship:** Your financial contribution can directly support the tuition fees of students pursuing their CTA studies, removing barriers to education and helping them focus on their academic success.
- **Study Materials:** The right resources are key to a student's success. Donating study materials—textbooks, electronic gadgets, calculators and basic learning resources will equip our students with the tools they need to excel.
- **Upkeep Support:** Many students face financial struggles beyond tuition fees. Your donation can help cover the cost of their accommodation, transport, food and daily necessities, ensuring they can focus entirely on their studies.

The Ripple Effect of Your Contribution

Every contribution, no matter how big or small, creates a ripple effect. By offering financial assistance, providing study materials, or contributing to their upkeep, you will be empowering a student to not only achieve their dreams but also to give back to the community in the future. As these students succeed, they too will become mentors, sponsors, and role models for others to follow.

65 students have benefited from this initiative, and we know that with your continued support, the number can only grow. Imagine the countless lives we can impact if we all come together to share our resources, knowledge, and mentorship.

How to Get Involved

If you are willing and able to contribute, please do not hesitate to reach out. Our team will be more than happy to discuss how you can make a difference in the life of a future Chartered Accountant. Whether through sponsorship, offering mentorship, or providing resources, your involvement will create lasting change.

Feel free to contact us on the contacts below:

Brenda Zimbowora-CAA Registrar (0719191127- brenda@caa.ac.zw) Declan Murungweni- (0774832599- declan@caa.ac.zw) CAA Landline - (0242702533, 08688007069)

Thank you once again for your unwavering support of the CAA and its mission. Together, we can continue to nurture and inspire the next generation of Chartered Accountants, paving the way for a brighter future for our profession.

We look forward to your continued involvement in this initiative. Together, we can make an even greater impact.



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