



The Old Stanfordian

The Official Newsletter of the Stanford Lake College Alumni Association



EVENTS

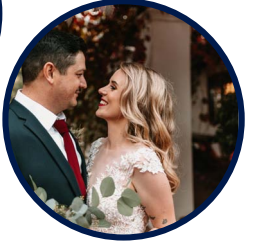
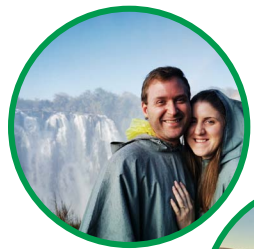
6 - 7 AUGUST
Wolkberg Trail Run

13 JAN 2023
The School Officially
Turns 25!!

20 MAY 2023
All Years Alumni Reunion

20 MAY 2023
Gala Dinner to celebrate
25 years


**GOOD
VIBES
ONLY**



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

REUNIONS AND PLANS



CLASS OF 2002 & 2012 REUNION

Whilst the reunion for the Classes of 2002 and 2012 didn't quite go to plan back in May, the day turned out to be an unexpected jol. Sadly, the attendance from the two year groups was extremely poor but with the band playing, enough snacks for a small army and welcome drinks galore, we opened up the party to current and past-parents who stayed behind after the Penryn Derby. The weather was a treat, the band created a stunning atmosphere and everyone enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon!

CELEBRATE 25 YEARS



Can you believe that in 2023, the school celebrates its 25th birthday?! We have a wonderful number of events lined up for the year ahead. Stay connected via our alumni social media pages, the Old Stanfordian newsletter and the school's social media pages to find out more. So far, the following dates have been set aside. Save them, lock them in, because these are going to be events that you DEFINITELY don't want to miss out on.



5 - 9 APRIL 2023
Easter Sports Festival



20 MAY 2023
All Years Alumni Reunion



20 MAY 2023
Gala Dinner to celebrate 25 years

WHAT'S COOKING ON CAMPUS?



After 10 YEARS of bureaucracy and to-ing and fro-ing, the school finally received its Fire Rational Plan last month. This means that the building work and upgrades in Founders, as well as the Dining Room, Uniform Shop, Dry Fly and Boarding Reception can get underway. Some nice additions to that area will be a Sanatorium and a social area with a fountain. We can't wait for the work to be finished and for our alumni to come and see the changes!



ALUMNI ACHIEVERS

ALL ABOUT COMMUNITY



ALI CONN MAKES TOP 200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS



Ali Conn (Class of 2007) was recently selected for the list of Top 200 Young South Africans by the Mail & Guardian. We have mentioned Ali's work with SA Harvest in previous editions of the Old Stanfordian. In October 2019, Ali joined SA Harvest and since then, the team has expanded from three to 35, with warehouses in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban. SA Harvest is a non-profit organisation that is working with the local government and food organisations to completely rethink the country's national food system. The project aims to create equal access to nutrition and eliminate waste in the food chain. SA Harvest is taking the lead in the national coordination of what type of food is donated as well as what food is actually being rescued from being needlessly thrown out. Ali began as regional manager for the Western Cape, and is now chief innovation officer overseeing branding and media.

Click [HERE](#) for the link to the article about Ali.

SONU ASSISTS WITH 67 BLANKETS



In light of Mandela Day on the 18th July, Sonu Patel, Class of 2018, took on the challenge of providing blankets for a local community. This done whilst being on the other side of the world! Sonu said, "I was asked by a local charity, Parish of the Letaba, to help them in getting blankets for a winter drive to take to Magoba Village. I am currently back in Australia finishing up my studies and I acknowledged that this project would be tough as I was not back home.

However, with the support of the members from my Foundation, some of whom are currently studying at Stanford Lake College (my sister, Shriya Patel in Grade 10 and Akshar Patel in Grade 11) and some other youths from the BAPS Swaminarayan Organisation in Tzaneen, I took on the project! I undertook this project knowing it would be tough to execute so as to receive the blessing of my Gurus, Pramukh Swami Maharaj and Mahant Swami Maharaj, as it is the 100th year Centennial Celebrations of Pramukh Swami Maharaj. With the aid of devotees from the BAPS Swaminarayan Organisation in Tzaneen, we managed to raise enough money to donate 67 blankets to the underprivileged children (67 to mark the 67 years Mandela spent as a public servant). The Gracious Givers Foundation team went along to Magoba Village to celebrate Mandela Day and to donate the blankets as well spending 67 minutes engaging and playing with the children. As the founder of the Gracious Givers, this is my first project and it was a huge success! Being on the other side of the world, I wouldn't of thought it would be possible. I am grateful for my Gurus' blessings and I get inspiration from them to go the extra mile in creating joy in other individuals' lives because, as my Guru Pramukh Swami said, "In the joy of others lies our own!"



ALUMNI ACHIEVERS

ALL ABOUT COMMUNITY



SEAN EMBARKS ON SAUDI ADVENTURE

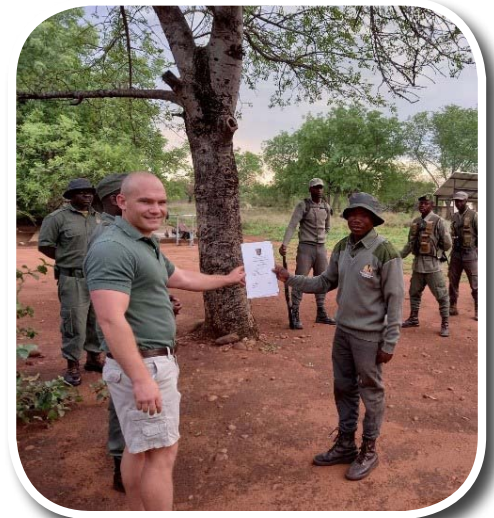
Sean van Niekerk, Class of 2009, has recently embarked on an adventure to Saudi Arabia where he has taken up an advisory position in a large conservation area. His focus area will be the establishment and management of both the terrestrial and marine Field Ranger component.

Sean's career in conservation started after he obtained his BCom Recreation at the end of 2013 from the University of Pretoria. After his studies at TUKS, he followed his passion in conservation to the Southern African Wildlife College where he became a qualified Field Ranger and Field Ranger Trainer.

Towards the end of 2014, he started his first Counter Poaching role in the Greater Lebombo Conservancy on the eastern boundary of Kruger National Park. Sean says, "My team and I, under the guidance of Col. L Dyck protected around 100km of KNP's eastern boundary and over 80,000 hectares of Mozambique conservation area. Our role was to mitigate rhino poaching while casting a safety net over all other species. By 2017, we developed and practiced an extremely successful Strategy "Early Detection - Quick Reaction" supported by various tactics, aiming to achieve three objectives; Community relations and wellbeing, Political Will and Wildlife Protection.

"With zero rhino losses in 18 months and a successful operation, my team and I were asked to support Peace Parks Foundations wildlife protection efforts in Limpopo National Park, a 1.2 million hectare national park stretching over 200km along Kruger National Park into Mozambique. Within the Peace Parks platform we were able to grow into senior positions. At the end of 2021 I was running Peace Parks Foundation's Counter Poaching Operations across Southern Mozambique which consisted of Maputo, Limpopo, Banhine and Zinave National Park."

Sean recently set off for his Saudi adventure, saying, "A career in conservation has been a continuous adventure. I have been fortunate to be based in large national parks that are still wild and untouched. I have spent most of my career sleeping in tents and under the stars and battling for connectivity to send off reports. I have been blessed to work with like-minded men and women that share my passion to protect our environment, it is their support, dedication and hard work that kept me in my position and supported my growth. With all the fun adventures in Mozambique National Parks my highlight was working with our K9 unit. Our team specialised in utilizing Blood Hound x Doberman Canines that can track spoor which is over 12 hours old for 20+km. Canines are truly man's best friend as each working K9 still manages to fill Field Rangers' hearts with joy after a long day in the field."



THANKS TO THE CLASS OF 2015

Stanford Lake College would like to extend a huge thank you to the Class of 2015 who kindly made a donation to the school. After discussing where would be most suitable to allocate those funds, the Class of 2015 and Mr Alan Redfern came to a mutual conclusion and the donation has assisted a pupil in fulfilling their dream of attending a Round Square Conference.

Pictured right are some of the Class of 2015 after their mandatory lake jump on Valediction Day.



ALUMNI ACHIEVERS

SPORTS



SANI2C RIDERS

A few alumni took part in the Sani2C MTB race back in May. The event is a three-day, 265-kilometre mountain bike stage race that starts on the Sani Pass in the southern Drakensberg, then crosses sections of the KZN Midlands before eventually ending at the shores of the Indian Ocean. Ryan Hyde and Zylon McGaffin (both Class of 2008) partnered up for the challenge.

Then Herman Fourie (Class of 2021) joined Alan Gordon representing Team Insect Science. The pair managed an astonishing 6th place among the elite men.



SEVENS FOR KIRSTEN

Congratulations to Kirsten Eastes, Class of 2017, who was invited to the Springboks Women's Sevens Holding Camp held in Stellenbosch in July.



JUNIOR'S TEAM TAKE JOZI CUP

Junior Netshituni (Class of 2019) was one of three Polokwane cricket players who were part of the Echo Florida Cricket Club (FCC) squad that won the inaugural Jozi Cup senior men's division title recently. FCC won three games to progress to the T20 final where they beat Jeppe Cricket Club by four wickets during a nail-biting match that saw Jeppe concede 88 runs in extras. The seven-week tournament saw over 1 200 players participate. Junior, who played wicketkeeper, enjoyed the experience, saying "Participating was one thing but winning will forever be an unforgettable experience. We practised hard and it paid off. I'm grateful to be part of such a hard-working and driven team." He added that playing at the Wanderers was a dream he has had since being at Stanford Lake College, "The decision to play in Gauteng wasn't easy to make but lifting the trophy showed it was all worth the sacrifice."

Thanks to the Polokwane Review for the news.



ALUMNI ACHIEVERS

SPORTS



MARTHINUS REPRESENTS SA

Marthinus Maritz, Class of 2020, represented South Africa in the 19th Cortland Youth World Fly Fishing Championships, in Trentino, Italy recently. Marthinus said they “were privileged to fish some very pristine rivers and alpine lakes. As a team we faired very well and managed to get a 6th place out of 10 teams, placing above the local Italy team. Individually I placed 22nd out of 57 participants. It was a great experience and I am thankful to Stanford Lake College for exposing me to Fly Fishing back in Grade 8.”



ALUMNI ACHIEVERS

GRADUATIONS



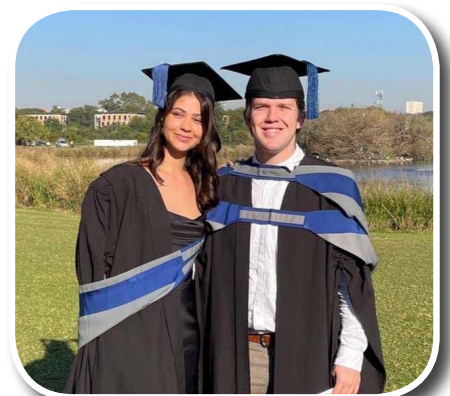
Kieran Bremner
(Class of 2016)

Kieran recently graduated at Tuks with a BSc(Agric) Applied Plant and Soil Sciences. He is currently pursuing an MSc(Agric) Horticulture through Tuks and doing his research at Westfalia.



Tshwanelo Kubayi
(Class of 2010)

Congratulations to Tshwanelo who recently obtained her Masters Degree in Architecture (MArch) from the University of Johannesburg’s Graduate School of Architecture. Tshwanelo is currently working in her own practice. She is also a assistant tutor at the Graduate School of Architecture under the renowned Unit System, Unit19, teaching Masters and Honours students in exploring unconventional forms of architectural design research practice.



Adam McGaffin
(Class of 2016)

Congratulations to Adam McGaffin who had his graduation ceremony back in May for his BACC Honours. The ceremony had previously been postponed due to COVID. Adam also passed his first Board Exam (ITC) and is busy doing his articles at Deloitte.



ALUMNI ACHIEVERS

GRADUATIONS



**Kirsty Westcott
(Class of 2016)**

Kirsty graduated with distinction from the University of Pretoria in 2020 with a Bachelor's degree in Town and Regional Planning, including honours. She then had the opportunity to study further and do a one-year full-time Masters of Urban Design at the University of Cape Town in 2021. She is currently doing the Urbanism and Development 6-month Internship Programme at Our Future Cities Organisation, based in the CBD of Cape Town. Kirsty says she loves being “newly Capetonian” and trying to explore what the beautiful city offers, from the trail running and hiking routes to adventuring in the ocean and countryside towns. Kirsty says, “I’m really enjoying the field I’m working in, gaining experience, and practicing what it means to be an urbanist.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENGAGEMENTS & BIRTHS



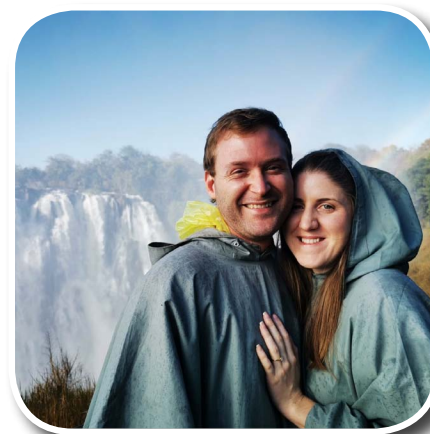
Leila Maria Boote

Congratulations to Maegan Boote (néé Von Finckenstein, Class of 2005) and her husband who welcomed their child, Leila Maria Boote, into the world on 2nd March 2022. Leila was born at 36 weeks and weighed 2.4kgs. The family are now back in Malawi, where they are on a 3-year work contract at Illovo Sugar Estate.



Georgia Coco Tooley

Congratulations to Katherine Tooley (néé Smit, Class of 2007) and her husband, Luca, who welcomed their second child, Georgia Coco Tooley, into the world recently. Georgia was 3.5kg at birth.



**Wayne Westcott
(Class of 2010)**

Wayne proposed to his fiancé, Roxanne Kockott, at Victoria Falls on the Zambian side on the 7th of July with a few friends who flew in from Denmark.

Tam asked his fiancé, Rachel Burman, for her hand in marriage recently. Tam had originally planned to pop the question in July in Tanzania at the Ruaha National Park. However, two days before he was due to depart for Tanzania, Rachel realised she would no longer be able to make it because of her studies. So with some quick organising, Tam was able to arrange a hot air balloon ride and asked her to marry him the day before he went back.

**Tam Johnson
(Class of 2013)**



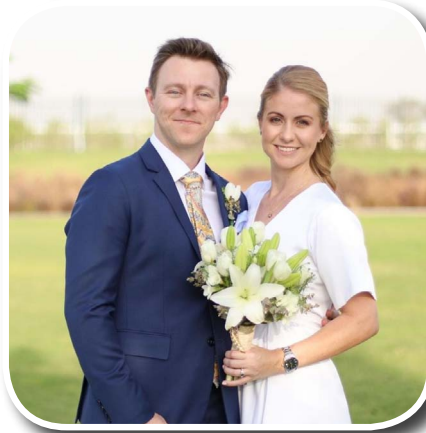
ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDDING BELLS



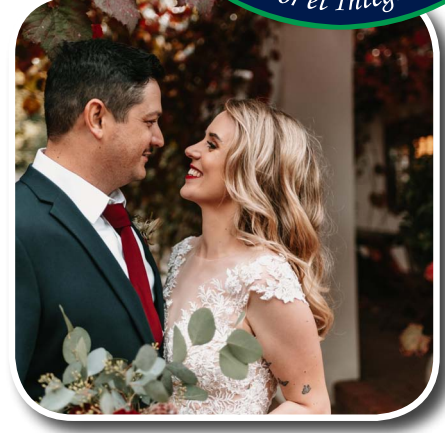
**Austin Johnson and
Jacqueline Knott
(Class of 2016)**

Congratulations to Austin and Jacqueline who tied the “Knott” on the 23rd April at Jacqueline’s family farm called Greater Kuduland Safaris in Limpopo. The couple say it was a perfect sunshine filled day in the bush surrounded by all their loved ones.



**Natalie Hartsuyker
néé Reed
(Class of 2009)**

Natalie shared her happy day with husband, Matt, on 30th March in Dubai. Natalie has been living in Dubai for just over 6 years and moved there for her work as an Occupational Therapist. In Dubai, she met Matt, a lawyer originating from Australia. The wedding ceremony in March was small and intimate, with just the couples’ parents and Natalie’s brother. After the ceremony, they went out for dinner at the restaurant where they had their first date, an Indian restaurant called Masti. The couple plan to have a big wedding in South Africa in April 2023, where they look forward to having friends and family from Australia, Dubai and South Africa celebrate with them in the bush!



**Nikita Müller
néé Espach
(Class of 2018)**

Nikita and Heinrich got married on an autumn afternoon in Stellenbosch at Nooitgedacht Wine Estate on 30th of April. Nikita said that grape leaves were the most beautiful autumn colours and they realised

“To everything there is a season”
– Ecclesiastes 3:1

Nikita is currently working for AGRICOLLEGES International as the Instructional Design Team Leader. She is working on an Orange Knowledge Project with Stellenbosch University and Maastricht School of Management in the Netherlands. Heinrich is an Irrigation Designer at Overberg Agri in Stellenbosch.



**Claire Berry
néé Malan
(Class of 2013)**

Claire married Matt Berry, an American in the US Military, on 15th March. They recently moved to the US and now live in Washington, DC. Matt is on 16 years of service going for 20 years. The couple met on a private game reserve that Claire was managing at the time and Matt was there on a safari.



**Khensani Jurczok-de Klerk
néé de Klerk
(Class of 2013)**

Congratulations to Khensani who tied the knot with Roland on July 16th in a small village in the Swiss Alps called Val Fex, Switzerland. The newlyweds, Mr and Mrs Jurczok-de Klerk, say they are absolutely overjoyed!





EVERY SWIPE COUNTS



School-Days provides an additional way to easily support Stanford Lake College. School-Days does not replace MySchool, nor do the initiatives compete with one another as they have completely different retail partners. The School-Days programme enables you to raise funds for school projects by shopping at several retailers including Dis-Chem, NetFlorist, SnapnSave, Shell garages and others at absolutely no cost to you.

We believe that a number of additional retail partners will come on board soon, and we will keep you updated.

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MEET OUR PARTNERS!



We look forward to having you on board!



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With a MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet card, you can raise funds for Stanford Lake College without costing you a cent. Register for your free MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet card, name Stanford Lake College as your beneficiary and you'll raise funds every time you swipe at one of the national partners (Woolworths, Engen Convenience Centres, Loot.co.za and Bidvest Waltons).

You can apply for a card through the following site:

<https://www.myschool.co.za/supporter/apply/>

SLC BUSINESS DIRECTORY



We continue to compile an Alumni Business Directory that is currently LIVE on the Stanford website. Click **HERE** to view.

Should you have a business or service that you offer and would like to be listed on the directory, please email us at: alumni@slc.co.za with further details of your business.

