



# The Old Stanfordian

The Official Newsletter of the Stanford Lake College Alumni Association

## 25 years in the making...

**T**his year, Stanford Lake College celebrates 25 years. Two Stanford community members have undertaken to delve into the school's history and what they have picked out whilst interviewing and researching the early years, is that the foundation of the school was very much through a strong community involvement, a commitment to getting things done and realising a dream. People say "we" and not "I" when speaking about the planning.

Following the establishment of Unicorn Preparatory as an independent school in Tzaneen, the parent body felt that there was always a need for an independent English medium high school in our area and through the passion and perseverance of the founding members and a dedicated team of parents deeply invested in their community, what was a dream became a reality, in a short 350 days. This entailed late nights of planning, debating and discussing. It was not always easy and took immense commitment from this amazing group of people who devoted themselves to this task of building a school.

The feeling was that they needed to buy land in Tzaneen and they had a few options, one of them being the Tzaneen shooting range. Fortunately, the stunning and picturesque Troutwaters Inn had just come up for sale. This family holiday resort was owned at the time by local businessman and hotelier, Guy Matthews. The facility was very nearly sold to a group of Chinese businessmen. Through a leap of faith, they convinced Guy to sell to them, despite the fact that they did not have the funding. During the course of 1997, through the sale of debentures, the founding members managed to raise R2 million in a matter of months. In September 1997, the plans were passed, the deal was struck and deconstruction and construction began.



The laying of the first brick. From left: Mrs Meininger, Mr Scholefield, Mrs Strever and Mr Blight.

The corner-stone brick of the classroom block was laid by Mrs Henning and Mrs Strever (the daughter of HGM Stanford, the constructor of the lake which bears his name) on 30th September 1997. The colour of the bricks was a much debated topic among the founding members. The "Transvaal" contingent had its way and the present colour of the teaching blocks was chosen. However, the "red brick brigade", led by Maggie Baleta, did not go down without a fight and in deference to her wishes, you'll see a single red brick in the wall on the side of the CAT lab at the school.

On the 12th January, 1998 Stanford College (as it was then known) opened its doors, with just 6 teachers, 8 classrooms, 68 pupils, 3 admin staff and 20 ground staff. The boys and girls all lived in the same boarding house, Founders, which was the old hotel building.

A local resident, Con Fauconier, who is the brother-in-law of Mr Steers who owns the piece of land adjacent to Stanford, gave the school the use of five hectares of land adjoining the school property as long as it was to be used for educational purposes. One of the members of the governing body at the time, Ed Hillary, was in construction and brought in a team to turn a hillside covered in black wattles into the top field we know today as the Hillary field.

With minimal attention to the condition of the soil, grass runners were planted. It took the better part of three years for the grass to knit, and for that time the main detention activity was picking up stones, first from the bare patches, later from within the turf. The pupils themselves were actually tasked to plant the grass too.

The late Rudi Schoeman thought up the name Stanford College, after the lake on which the school is situated. Following threats of a lawsuit from Stanford University in California (who had a trade mark on Stanford College) the school had to alter their name and the founders settled on Stanford Lake College.

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EVENTS

**5 - 6 AUGUST 2023**  
The Wolkberg Trail Run

**Enter HERE:**  
<https://www.entryninja.com/events/79105-wolkberg-trail-run>



# 25 YEARS IN THE MAKING

## A brief history of Stanford Lake College



Mr Gavin Scholefield was the founder headmaster, originally from Michaelhouse. The cricket oval is named after Mr Scholefield in honour of his contribution to Stanford. He spent a short three years on the mountain but in that time instilled a wonderful code of ethics amongst the pupils and staff alike. One of the original staff members was the late Mr Ken Shuter, a wonderfully unconventional educationalist who embraced all Stanford stood for. One of the boarding houses is named after him.

When Mr Scholefield left, Mrs Anne van Zyl, from St Stithians College, became the new head, and apart from bringing an enormous amount of energy into the school, she was also instrumental in introducing Stanford to the International Round Square Organisation and to this day, we remain one of this continent's most active and influential Round Square schools. Since then, the school has been led by Mr Brian Dawson, Mr Johann Uekermann, Mr Craig Carolan and currently by Mr Alan Redfern.

It is no coincidence that in the very undertaking of building the school, the amazing visionaries who took on the challenge were displaying some of the school's key values. In order to establish a place that espoused lifelong learning and ensuring quality in all that they did, a community came together to achieve! It took unbelievable commitment, incredible courage, respect for one another as they debated and discussed the plans, and an honesty to deliver on their promise to Guy Matthews that they would find the money to pay for the hotel. It therefore does not come as a surprise that when they sat down to discuss what the school's value system should look like, they came up with the seven values the school abides by today – Integrity, Courage, Commitment, Quality, Respect, Ubuntu and Tshanduko.



Founder chair Howard Blight and Maggie Baleta handing over the cheque to Guy Matthews.



The first day of school 1998.



The first teaching block taking shape.



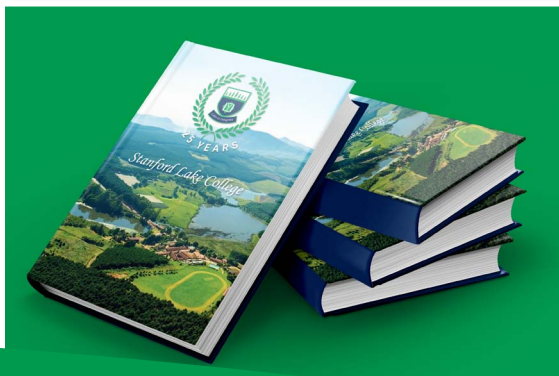
Admin and teaching staff in 2000.



The school's first bus. It was known as the White Elephant.



Planting of the top field.



### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are super excited to announce that the 25-year publication will be available towards the end of the year. The hardcover coffee table book details the history of Stanford Lake College. You can pre-order your copy (R460.00) by sending an email to: [marketing@slc.co.za](mailto:marketing@slc.co.za)

We are also looking for stories and accounts from Old Stanfordians to add to the publication. Let us know some anecdotes from your time here, a testimonial or your post-Stanford achievements. Please send your submission to: [piley@mweb.co.za](mailto:piley@mweb.co.za)





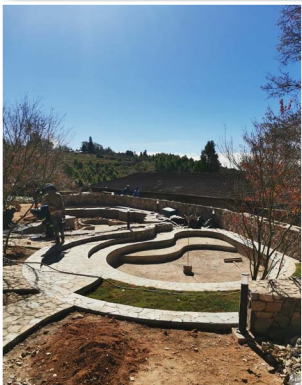
# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

## CONSTRUCTION GALORE



If you have visited the campus any time over the last 12 months, you will have noticed the huge amount of construction work going on. The work has included upgrades to the Dry Fly, the dining hall, the reception, clothing shop and the addition of a sanatorium and San Sister's accommodation. Additionally, all the staff accommodation attached to Founders (Housemasters and Assistant Housemasters) has been completely overhauled and upgrades to Founders Boarding House continue. Outside the Dry Fly, we are in the process of building a memorial fountain that will commemorate the struggles and losses we, as a community, endured during the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you haven't seen the upgrades with your own eyes, we encourage you to come for a visit!



# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

## RECYCLING PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTED

We are so excited to announce that we have started our journey to become a more sustainable and circular campus. We are proudly working in partnership with Plant the Seed to become a community that actively recycles and who engages in finding waste management solutions. Our partners from Plant the Seed spent a week on campus in February giving training workshops to all pupils and staff at all levels. You'll see some extra signage about our recycling efforts around campus on your next visit and different colour bins for streaming recyclable items. Please be mindful of your waste disposal on campus and help us make steps to becoming greener. We receive metrics from Plant the Seed on a monthly basis and the figures are quite astounding. In May alone, we diverted a total of 1164 kgs of recyclable material from landfill.



# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

MATRIC RESULTS 2022



## Stanford Lake College

### CLASS OF 2022 TOP ACHIEVERS



Zoë Burman  
**9 DISTINCTIONS**

Afrikaans First Additional Language, English Home Language, Information Technology, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Further Studies Maths - Standard, Further Studies Maths - Elective



Lulu Cooper  
**6 DISTINCTIONS**

Afrikaans First Additional Language, English Home Language, History, Life Orientation, Mathematics



Rachel Thompson  
**6 DISTINCTIONS**

Afrikaans First Additional Language, English Home Language, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Visual Arts



Koni Fobbe  
**5 DISTINCTIONS**

Afrikaans First Additional Language, English Home Language, Geography, Life Orientation, Life Sciences



Jemma Henning  
**5 DISTINCTIONS**

Business Studies, English Home Language, Geography, Life Orientation, Mathematical Literacy



Heidi Katzke  
**5 DISTINCTIONS**

Afrikaans First Additional Language, Business Studies, Life Orientation, Mathematical Literacy, Visual Arts



Jack Tasker  
**5 DISTINCTIONS**

Business Studies, English Home Language, Geography, Mathematics, Physical Sciences



Micaela Wight  
**5 DISTINCTIONS**

Afrikaans First Additional Language, English Home Language, History, Life Orientation, Life Sciences



Anika Willemse  
**5 DISTINCTIONS**

Afrikaans First Additional Language, English Home Language, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Visual Arts



Christian Krüger  
**4 DISTINCTIONS**

Afrikaans First Additional Language, Business Studies, Life Orientation, Mathematical Literacy



Asma Modan  
**4 DISTINCTIONS**

Afrikaans First Additional Language, Business Studies, Life Orientation, Life Sciences



Emmana Mohlaba  
**4 DISTINCTIONS**

Business Studies, English Home Language, Life Orientation, Life Sciences



Tanatswa Murasiranwa  
**4 DISTINCTIONS**

English Home Language, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Visual Arts



Cara Prinsloo  
**4 DISTINCTIONS**

Afrikaans First Additional Language, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Visual Arts



**University exemption rate**



**Subject distinctions**



# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

## WE WELCOME A NEW ALUMNI COMMITTEE



We would like to extend a huge thanks to the outgoing Alumni Committee who served from 2019 to the end of 2022; Lori Hyde, Cassie McGaffin and Akani Baloyi. A special mention, also, to Paul Vorster who also served during the majority of that time. The team are thanked for their enthusiasm and support to all things Old Stanfordian and getting a number of projects off the ground. In January 2023, we welcomed alumnus, Katie Forrest (Class of 2009), on to the staff team as an English teacher. Katie is now the Chair of the Old Stanfordian Association and has entrusted the help of four others to run the society. Meet the new team:



**Katie Forrest**

Class of 2009  
Fenwick House

Katie is both an alumnus and an English teacher at Stanford. She has loved the opportunity to return to her old school and is proud to be part of an institution that had such an important impact on her life. Katie grew up in Haenertsburg and attended Rhodes University where she graduated with an MA in English. Her passion for education and working with young people arose from her experiences at Stanford.



**Warrick Dawson**

Class of 2008  
Loomis House

After moving to the mountain with his family in 1998 when SLC was founded, Warrick was part of the SLC community growing up. He graduated from UP with a Bcom Honours in Informatics and currently runs his own software company in Johannesburg.



**Hayley Dawson**

Class of 2013  
Loomis House

Hayley spent 16 years of her life at Stanford. Her experiences of living and growing up on the school property instilled within her a deep love for education. Hayley studied a BA in Visual Studies and has since become a teacher. She is currently the Head of Department for Design at Curro Aurora in Johannesburg. Despite living in Gauteng at the moment, she is sure her journey will lead her back to Stanford one day.



**Byron Stroud**

Class of 2004  
Orvis House (Captain)

After almost 20 years in the construction industry, Byron decided to make a change and move back to the Mountain. He had a desire to get more involved in a community that he cares about, and live in a place that aligned with his values from day one. His love for Limpopo and its wonderful people brought him back with the hopes of building a network based on old friendships and helping guide the younger generations wherever they might need it.



**Ingrid Vaughan**

Class of 2013  
Loomis House

Ingrid studied a BSc in Agricultural Economics and Food Science at Stellenbosch University. She works as a Project Manager for new product launches at Tiger Brands. Ingrid currently lives in Johannesburg and is an avid runner and travel enthusiast.



# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

## GALA DINNER, AUCTION AND ALUMNI REUNION



On the evening of Saturday, 20th May, we had the most fantastic evening celebrating the school's 25th birthday with an Out in Africa-themed Gala Dinner. After brilliant entertainment by some of our pupils and a talented local marimba band, we hosted a successful live auction and raised over R167,000 for the school. A huge thanks to everyone who came and made the evening the success that it was.

Due to the generous nature of our community and the huge amounts of lots received for the auction, we were able to then have a silent auction afterwards which was open for a period of three weeks. The lots purchased on the silent auction brought in another R63,000 for the school. All the funds raised will go towards improvements and upgrades of our adventure and outdoor facilities.

It was a busy weekend on the mountain as we also hosted our "all years" alumni reunion on Friday, 19th May. With fires going, live music playing and a Zwakala pop-up bar keeping everyone refreshed, it turned into a brilliant evening! Stories and laughter were shared and lots of reminiscing was done. Thanks to everyone who braved the chilly winter evening to take a trip down memory lane and to catch up with peers.





# ALUMNI ACHIEVERS

## SPORTS



### FIRST CLASS DEBUT FOR TOM

Congratulations to Thomas Mayes (Class of 2019) who made his First Class debut for Ireland in a warm-up game against Essex recently. Tom made the Ireland squad for their tours to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka but, unfortunately, was not given the opportunity to play.



### REPRESENTING SA

Congratulations to Brian Gardner (Head Boy of 2002) who was recently selected to represent SA at the World Orienteering Champs in Switzerland in July!



### EPIC HERMAN, EPIC

Herman Fourie (Class of 2021) competed in the Cape Epic MTB stage race for his team, Insect Science Mountain Biking. This is the pinnacle of mountain biking and a massive achievement for just being on the starting line. He rode with local hero Alan Gordon and they stayed in the front bunch, fighting it out with some big names through most of the race. Unfortunately, on one of the last days they kindly offered a wheel to their front running Insect Science team, who were struggling with an issue. This led to their front team finishing on the Africa Jersey podium and themselves falling down the ranks, but that is what teamwork and commitment is all about. They still managed to finish the race in good standing. Well done, Herman!



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BIRTHS



**Caleb and Grayson Wright**

Congratulations to Brandon Wright (Class of 2013) and Ulrike Wright (née von Maltitz, Class of 2012) on the birth of their twin boys, Caleb and Grayson Wright, who were born on the 17th of November 2022 at 33 weeks. After staying in the Neonatal ICU for three weeks, they were safely home in December and are growing stronger by the day.



**Maddison Grace McGaffin**

Congratulations to Zylon McGaffin (Class of 2008) and his wife, Katherine, who welcomed their daughter, Maddison Grace, into the world on 31 March.



**Connor Hill**

Congratulations to Chris Hill (Class of 2008), and his wife, Jordyn-Leigh, on the birth of their son, Connor.



**Thomas Alexander Jeans**

Congratulations to Megan Jeans (née Conn, Class of 2009) and her husband, Michael Jeans, on the birth of their first child. Thomas Alexander Jeans was born on the 4th of April 2023 at Stellenbosch Mediclinic, weighing 3.3 kgs.



**Enya Prinsloo**

Cecilia Prinsloo (née Landman, Class of 2009) and her husband, Adriaan, welcomed their daughter, Enya, into the world on 20th April. Enya was born at 2.98kg.





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOVE IS IN THE AIR



**Emma Melville**  
(Class of 2019)

Congratulations to Emma Melville (Head Girl of 2019) who got engaged to her fiancé, Michiel Brand, on 4th March. The couple tie the knot in Stellenbosch on the 15th July.



**Amber Young**  
(Class of 2016)

Amber and her fiancé got engaged whilst on a snorkeling expedition off the East Coast of Bali. Amber says, "We were sure to celebrate with lots of cold Bintangs (the local beer)."



**Susan Schoeman**  
(Class of 2009)

Congratulations to Susan Schoeman (Deputy Head Girl, Class of 2009) who recently got engaged to Brandon Craytor at Cheerio Gardens, Haenertsburg.



**Darren Human**  
(Class of 2009)

Darren and his wife got married towards the end of 2022.



**Lara Hawken**  
(Class of 2007)

Lara Hawken (Class of 2007) got married to Michael MacIntosh on April 1st at Cheerio Gardens!



**Bradley Costa**  
(Class of 2010)

Bradley and his wife, Amy, tied the knot recently.



**Megan Nel (née Schulze)**  
(Class of 2012)

Megan married her best friend, Jason Nel, in a gorgeous bush wedding in Hoedspruit.

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

Natalie and her husband, Matt, who got married at Lunikhy Game Farm, near Bela-Bela, on the 15th of April.



# ACHIEVEMENTS

## GRADUATIONS



**Sonu Patel**  
**(Class of 2018)**

Congratulations to Sonu Patel who recently graduated at QUT, Brisbane with a Bachelors of Accounting with distinction. Sonu says, "I am exceptionally happy with my results. Doing my bachelors on the other side of the world with the skills Stanford Lake College has taught me has landed me a Graduate Job in Grant Thornton in the Audit Division starting in Brisbane, Australia in 2023. I will also be starting my CA studies next year, can't wait for what the journey has to offer!"



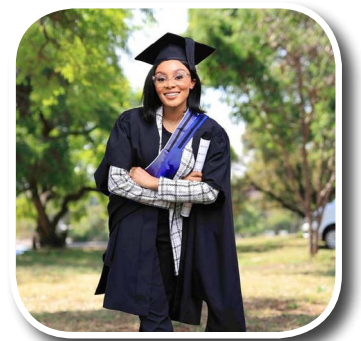
**Bronwyn Joubert**  
**(Class of 2013)**

Congratulations to Bronwyn Joubert for completing her PhD in Industrial Engineering at Stellenbosch University. Bronwyn's focus was on the optimisation of health systems and her dissertation was titled: "Towards the sustainable implementation of Lean in hospitals". She has also published several academic papers based on her research.



**Tim Kuiper**  
**(Class of 2009)**

Congratulation to Tim Kuiper for graduating with his PhD from Oxford University!



**Isaley Alina Lungelo Ngobeni**  
**(Class of 2016)**

Congratulations to Isaley Alina Lungelo Ngobeni who recently graduated with her BCom Hons with distinction in Business Informatics. Isaley previously completed her undergraduate degree in Information Systems, however, did not get a chance to have a graduation ceremony as it was during the peak of the 2020 Covid-19 lockdown. She is thrilled to be able to celebrate now.





# ACHIEVEMENTS

PAYING IT FORWARD



**David Murray**  
**(Class of 2004)**

What a privilege to be asked to contribute to this fantastic publication - I write to you from a far away land of misty hills, castles, wizards and leprechauns... that's not true, well the first bit is, I'm based in the UK, but the rest is what the movies make you believe. In fact, it's just a cold, wet, grey place with warm beer and funny accents... and football, they like football here.

Five years ago I started a company that designs and builds commercial interiors – colloquially referred to as 'office fit out.' On incorporating Echospace Ltd, I set up a charitable entity at the same time that would be the long term beneficiary of every single project that my company was awarded.

This concept is not commonplace in business, in fact, Echospace is the first and still only company in our sector in London to pledge a fixed percentage of its revenue to its own charitable Foundation, and so LoveWhereYouWork (LWYW™) was born.

The concept for me was simple. I felt a strong need to share in any success that I may enjoy, by giving back to society's most needy and deserving. My own version of paying it forward (watch that movie if you haven't already). A quick bit of context here – I, like most of you am an old Stanfordian. I matriculated in 2004 (year of legends) and to this day credit my time at Stanford as one of the most important periods of my life. That said, I discovered many years later that an anonymous person had stepped in to fund the latter part of my time at Stanford. I am certain that had that not happened, I would not be where I am today. Our school is a truly magical base from which you can literally achieve anything you desire; look at me, a little plaasjapie from Louis Trichardt to starting and running a £10mil company in London – and before you ask, nope, I was not the clever kid at Stanford, nor was I a Craven Week rugby player...but I am a Stanfordian, and have benefitted from all that comes with attending such a brilliant school.

More about LoveWhereYouWork then. The LWYW mission is to invest in carefully selected partners, where every penny contributed goes directly to those who need it. The focus of this funding is about doing what is necessary for those in need to have a more fulfilled and dignified life.

As a foundation our goals are simple:

1. Give back passionately and unreservedly as long as we are able to do so.
2. To start a movement of corporate responsibility where more businesses are doing more for those in need.
3. To make a meaningful difference to someone out there no matter how big or small. Upskill, encourage and educate.

Currently our primary beneficiaries include:

KYGN - a registered school providing education, health care and safe house accommodation to some of the most disadvantaged children in Tanzania. We sponsor a class of 30 primary school children and raised around R125,000 last year for the refurbishment of their safe house for orphaned students.

Bethany Home - Based in Johannesburg, is a true testament to love; housing abused women and their children who seek shelter, offering a safe haven and a place of rehabilitation. LWYW has pledged a five-year financial support program totaling R100,000.

Siphosethu & Amahle - We are sponsoring two talented young ladies from a small rural village in the Tongaat area of KwaZulu Natal to attend Inanda Seminary school – in 2022 LWYW provided a provision for their pocket money, travel and extra mural activities. This year in 2023 we have increased the financial support by R75,000 to ensure their tertiary education is not inhibited purely by a lack of money.

Over and above these primary projects, we are always taking on smaller community interest projects. Some of these include: Our annual "creating smiles" campaign – a Christmas present appeal that ensures at least 300 families have presents to give to their kids on Christmas day. We were part of a huge logistics campaign to get three thousand text books from Cambridge University to schools in Zimbabwe. Our team recently got down and dirty planting some 800 trees to enhance a local community's green belt here in London. And lastly, a few of us took on an unbelievable cycle challenge last year from London to Paris over 3 days. I was part of that crew, but just like my days at Stanford, I realised yet again that cycling really isn't my strong suit – I made it there, but only just!

I would love it if you followed us on our social media channels and more importantly interacted with the updates. The more the word spreads, the more likely other businesses will take note and create their own versions of LWYW – who knows, maybe one of you reading this will be inspired to give back to your own local community, or better yet, will become the new Elon Musk and change the whole world for the good!



# ACHIEVEMENTS

PAYING IT FORWARD



**Ali Conn**  
(Class of 2007)

In December, Ali was selected as one of Africa's 100 Brightest Young Minds, by the UN World Food Programme. In February, Ali was then featured in the Daily Maverick for the work he is doing with SA Harvest. Read the articles here:

**[Africa's 100 Brightest Young Minds](#)**  
**[Daily Maverick](#)**

## BADGERS FOR LIFE



**Michael van Zyl**  
(Head Boy 2016)

Our Matric Class of 2023 were so privileged to have Michael van Zyl come and speak to them at the beginning of the year about the significance of the Badger as the school mascot. Michael and his peers spearheaded the introduction of the Badger as the mascot and it was wonderful to hear about its origins and the rationale behind it. The Matric Class were left inspired to keep fighting the badger fight!

### Alumni put on their running shoes

It was lovely to see so many of our alumni at the Inter-house Athletics back in January. It allowed us to put on an alumni vs. matrics vs. staff vs. parent relay race at the end. Despite a full day of events in the scorching sun, the current matrics absolutely smoked everyone. The two male alumni teams crossed the line in second and third place. The staff came in 4th, the parents in 5th, and the girls' alumni in 6th. Thanks to everyone for being such good sports and ending the day in such a fun way. It was awesome to see you all!





## 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.

<https://www schooldays.co.za/register/>

*Stanford Lake College*

**I'm Already a School-Days® Member**

- ▶ Login and select **our** school as your beneficiary.
- ▶ Shop at Dis-Chem and support our school.
- ▶ **Download the School-Days mobile app**, activate your Shell T-card and support our school every time you fill up at Shell.
- ▶ Check out the growing list of School-Days Rewards Partners.

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**Getting started:**

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### MEET OUR PARTNERS!



We look forward to having you on board!



**MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet**  
MAKE EVERY SWIPE COUNT

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](mailto:alumni@slc.co.za) with further details of your business.

