



OLD JOHANNIAN ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Old Johannians

As the St John's community recognises and celebrates the significant milestone of its 125th birthday, it is an opportune time to appreciate the importance of the Old Johannian Association and its worldwide network of Old Johannians in the legacy and sustainability of St John's. 2023 sees the Old Johannian Association celebrate its own significant milestone of having been in existence for 120 years, to complement that of St John's.

The Old Johannian Association (OJA) plays a vital role within the wider St John's community. A strong and united Old Johannian (OJ) network is necessary to ensure that the values and ethos of St John's College are maintained and carried forward outside of the school corridors. The OJA is of the belief that a world-class school requires a world-class network of OJs, and strives to be a central point through which all Old Johannians can stay connected with the St John's community.

To this end, the Old Johannian Association is focusing on key strategic initiatives to increase the activity within the Old Johannian network, leading towards greater agency, to draw all Old Johannians closer to St John's, and to contribute towards OJs experiencing the value of being an Old Johannian. The OJA's role is to perform a facilitative role in achieving such objectives, through its influence of and service to the OJ network.

The OJA affords Old Johannians opportunities to connect both in person through the organisation of numerous events throughout the year and The Johannian Club, and virtually, mainly via social media platforms.

This edition of the OJA Newsletter is a celebration of the power of connection achieved through in-person events. Events held recently include the OJA Dinner, Morison Abel Golf Day, Gaudy Day, and the Old Johannian New York and London Cocktail Evenings. These events facilitated the connection and reconnection of Old Johannians to one another, and importantly, to St John's in celebration of its 125th birthday.

At the core of achieving the OJA's strategic imperatives is an up-to-date and comprehensive database of Old Johannians. Through the OJA's partnership with The Advancement Office, significant strides have been made in achieving a repository of information off which to better improve the OJA's service to Old Johannians and to ensure that OJs remain up to date with the school's progress. Please assist the OJA in its service to you by sending the OJA Organiser, Zelda Siphenuka (info@oja.co.za), your updated details to be entered into the database.

The OJA has upgraded the facilities of the Johannian Club, which through the provision of a physical touchpoint, contributes towards an overall improved service to Old Johannians.

A large focus of the OJA is on adding value to the professional lives of Old Johannians. A benefit of being an OJ is the inherent connection that OJs have to one another within the professional environment. Through the rejuvenated OJA LinkedIn Group, the OJA is striving to perform its facilitative role within the professional OJ network more deliberately. The promotion of Old Johannians amongst each other is further facilitated through the recently launched 'OJs in the Spotlight' Campaign. The campaign, delivered via the OJA's LinkedIn and Facebook groups, has been established to actively promote OJs within the Worldwide Network of Old Johannians. The campaign is reliant upon OJs nominating fellow OJs to be promoted, which can be done by contacting Ms Siphenuka.

Graham Kerr-Phillips
Chairman



Please **follow us** on our social media platforms for more content related to the Old Johannians:



www.linkedin.com



www.facebook.com

Contact: Zelda Siphenuka | info@oja.co.za | 011 645 3178

2023 CALENDAR

As we continue to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the founding of St John’s College, there are a number of events planned. Please diarise these dates to be a part of the celebrations.

THE KEY DATES TO NOTE

- 30 September *Light on the Night* on Burger Field with Mango Groove and College and Prep music
- 19 October Johannesburg Cocktail Evening
- 2 November Cape Town Reunion
- 3 November Garden Route Luncheon
- 9 November Remembrance Day Mass
- 11 November Beyond 125 - Gala Dinner
- 17 November Wine Exhibition in the College Quadrangles
- 6 December Closing Community Mass



GOLDEN EAGLE AWARDS

The Old Johannian Association and St John's College are pleased to announce the 2023 Golden Eagle Award winners: Dr Michael "Gus" Mills (Alston 1963) and The Thompson Family.

Gus and Margie Mills



Dr Michael "Gus" Mills (Alston 1963) has spent more than 40 years studying African ecology, focusing on Africa's large carnivores, a subject in which he is recognised as a world authority. As an essential component in conservation planning, his work seeks to unpack the functional relationships between predators, their prey and the environment to better understand community dynamics, ecosystem functions and adaptation.

Over the years, his work has contributed to improved national park management, spurred a "citizen science" movement in South Africa, and mentored a new generation of scientists. Through his extensive writings, talks, interviews and involvement in documentary films, Gus has made an invaluable contribution to natural history, science and education.

From 1989 to 2006, Gus was a member of the Kruger National Park's Conservation Management Committee, and he made major contributions to devising management plans for both the Kgalagadi and Kruger parks. During this time, he coordinated a watershed workshop between the IUCN African Elephant Specialist Group and the Kruger National Park to discuss elephant culling, which had been a central management strategy in the park for 30 years. The workshop resulted in the Kruger ending its elephant culling practice and saw a significant decrease in artificially providing water throughout the park. These changes led to a far more ecosystem-orientated approach to the park's management.

Gus served as an Extraordinary Professor at the University of Pretoria for 10 years, supervised several MSc and PhD theses, and was also a research associate and PhD supervisor at the UK's Oxford University. He founded and was the first chairman

of the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Carnivore Conservation Group.

Besides participating in and coordinating numerous conservation workshops, Gus has been active in several international conservation programmes and has served on numerous IUCN carnivore specialist groups and other committees responsible for conservation in various African countries.

A prolific writer, he has published two definitive studies on large African carnivores — *Kalahari Hyenas; Comparative Behavioural Ecology of Two Species* (Unwin Hyman), and *Kalahari Cheetahs: Adaptations to an Arid Region* (Oxford University Press). He has also published 153 peer-reviewed scientific papers, book chapters and IUCN reports on a wide range of topics on carnivore ecology, behaviour and the conservation aspects relevant to all large African carnivores and several smaller species. The 1998 Encyclopedia Britannica Book of the Year lauded his research publications on the Kruger Park wild dogs as one of the most significant zoological findings in the world that year. He has presented over 100 papers at conferences, symposia, seminars and workshops locally and internationally, several times as the keynote or invited speaker.

In 1989, Gus pioneered citizen science in South Africa. In his wild dog and cheetah population surveys, he enlisted the help of tourists to the Kruger National Park (KNP), asking them to provide photographs of individuals they encountered in the park. This successful programme continues to this day and has been vital in monitoring the population trends of these species in the KNP.

Gus has been a valuable mentor to SANParks staff, including junior scientists, as part of the SANParks transformation policy, the Lewis Foundation's Human Capital Development Strategy for Biodiversity, and South Africa's Department of Higher Education and Training's nGAP programme. As part of a social upliftment programme, he has also supported the San community in the Kalahari, employing trackers and supporting a young San trackers' development programme.

Gus and his wife, Margie, have published three popular scientific books: *Hyena Nights and Kalahari Days* (Jacana Media), *A Natural History Guide to the Arid Kalahari* (Black Eagle Media), and *Fast Cats on Red Sands – a story about Kalahari Cheetahs and their Researchers* (Crocota Publishers).

In 2016, Gus received a Wildlife Excellence Award from the Southern African Wildlife Management Association.

Not one to slouch, in 2021, he became the oldest man to climb Africa's third-highest peak, Margherita (5 100m), in the Ruwenzori Mountains of Uganda.

Dr Gus Mills is a worthy recipient of the 2023 Golden Eagle Award.

GOLDEN EAGLE AWARDS

The Thompson family

Eric Speechley, Norah and Eric Courtenay Thompson



Eric Speechley Thompson (Hill, 1912) was among the first boys to enter St John's. Fr Nash had visited his parents and urged them to send their sons to the tiny school near the Union Grounds in central Johannesburg. Although not brilliant at sports, Eric was active in the annual presentations of Shakespeare's plays.

After matriculating in 1912, Eric, like most able-bodied young men, joined for active duty in the Great War. Eric served as a machine gunner in East Africa, keeping a diary that was published. After the war in 1919, he joined the Anglo American Corporation, where he met his wife-to-be, Norah.

In 1920, Eric became involved in the Old Johannian Association, delivering extraordinary service over the years. With Fr Thomson, he originated the Johannian Magazine. He was instrumental in raising funds for the beautiful wooden panels in the Memorial Chapel and Bishop Nash's crozier and chair. He donated the fine chandeliers in the cloisters, the regimental silver for the Cadet parades and the large "Thompson" pots at the top of the Amphitheatre. Eric wrote a rich history of the Old Johannian Association spanning 73 years — *Let Me Tell You: The Story of the First 73 Years of the Old Johannian Association* (1976) — published in 1976. He later served on the St John's College Council.

Eric served for 40 years in the 2nd Transvaal Scottish Battalion, which he commanded as Colonel. Despite his age, he even served during the Second World War. He remained humble,



according to mentions in dispatches, and after the war he became a leader in mobilising opposition to the racist policies of South Africa's National Party. He was a leader in the Torch Commando, which later became the Labour Party.

During his time at Anglo American, Eric served as the secretary and treasurer of the Anglo American Chairman's Fund, which served to empower many South Africans. On his 100th birthday, Anglo American provided a sumptuous lunch and arranged for 100 pipers and 50 officers from various regiments to march up to his house as a tribute to his lifelong military service. On this occasion, the Old Johannian Association donated R1 000 in his name to the Anglican Education Fund and initiated the Eric Thompson Sixth Form Bursary.

In a letter thanking the headmaster for the good wishes on his 100th birthday, Eric wrote: "Thus ended a memorable day in this wicked world — a world, however, which is sweetened by the God-given love and kindness in the hearts of many people."

He was a man who gave a lifetime of service to others and his country.

His wife Norah worked tirelessly for the Old Johannian Association before she married Eric, performing secretarial duties and washing and ironing the chapel linen. Norah is the only woman who has received honorary life membership of the Old Johannian Association in recognition of all she had done for St John's.



During the war, she served as the Chairman of the Transvaal Scottish Welfare Fund. She visited the relatives of men who had died Pro Patria, saw to the welfare of the men in the field and organised comfort parcels for prisoners of war. She was an active fundraiser for the Red Cross and arranged Christmas parties for the Regiment's children. She is mentioned in the Regimental history of the Transvaal Scottish for her inspiring leadership.

After the war, she did not rest, actively participating in the Black Sash movement.

Eric and Norah's son, Eric Courtenay Thompson (Hill, 1949), concluded the rich family tradition of philanthropy with his remarkably generous bequest to future generations of Johannians.

The Thompson family is a worthy recipient of the Golden Eagle Award.

EVENTS AND VISITS

The Morison Abel Golf Day

The Morison Abel Golf Day brought together Old Johannians, reminiscing on shared memories while showcasing their impressive golf skills.

Congratulations to all the participants for their sportsmanship and competitive spirit. Whether you conquered the course or simply enjoyed the experience, your presence made this day remarkable. We would also like to thank Standard Bank, SovTech, and High Street Asset Management for their invaluable and generous sponsorship of the annual Golf Day.

Let's keep the memories alive and continue to strengthen our Worldwide Network of Old Johannians. Stay tuned for future events, as we look forward to more opportunities to reconnect, relive, and create new memories together.



EVENTS AND VISITS

The Old Johannian Association Dinner

On the evening preceding Gaudy Day 2023, over 200 Old Johannians and guests arrived in Darragh Hall to attend the much-celebrated Old Johannian Association Dinner.

With Darragh Hall transformed into a spectacular setting, and with Old Johannians proudly wearing their OJA ties, there was much laughter and chatting as OJ's reconnected and caught up with each other, recounting shared experiences of school days.

The 2023 dinner saw milestone reunions with the 2013, 2003, 1993, 1983 and 1973 groups in attendance, and the evening marked time spent reminiscing and rekindling old friendships.

The event, MCed by Brett Tucker (Clayton 1997), who kept everyone entertained with his humour, Old Johannians present were able to enjoy a delicious meal and an excellent and informative talk by Owen Nkumane (Clayton 1994) and Jon Patricios (Clayton 1986). A highlight of the evening was the magnificent OJA choir as well as the singing of the Boar's Head Carol, with Craig and Cameron Quiding (Alston 1988 and 2021) bringing in the Boar's Head.

It was an evening filled with much nostalgia as well as creating of new memories, promises to stay in touch and gratitude for the school that shaped so many lives.



EVENTS AND VISITS

125 Celebrations and Gaudy Day

Gaudy Day is a cherished tradition that fosters a sense of camaraderie as our Old Johannians come together to reminisce and celebrate their shared love of St John's. The attendance of so many generations of Old Johannians in the various activities on offer is a testament to our school's enduring legacy and strength.

The day began with the Old Johannian Mass featuring the wonderful voices of the Old Johannian and College Choirs and conferring the Golden Eagle Award to Dr Gus Mills (Alston 1963) and The Thompson Family for their service to their country and the world.



Fr Angus Paterson

The 125 Heritage Exhibition, a permanent exhibition in the Rene England Auditorium that celebrates our 125-year-old history, was officially opened by The Visitor, the Right Revd Dr Steve Moreo, Bishop of Johannesburg, with a special address by former Chairman of the Heritage Committee, Dr Daniel Pretorius.



Dr Daniel Pretorius



Right Revd Dr Steve Moreo, Bishop of Johannesburg

As part of our 125 celebrations, a new addition to the traditional Gaudy Day programme was the Adsum Tea for Old Johannians who had matriculated before 1978.



Caption: Linda Reynolds, Bob Reynolds (Thomson 1976), Keith Holliman (Thomson 1966) and Graham Kerr-Phillips, Chairman of the Old Johannian Association

Our Old Johannians and First Teams went head-to-head in basketball, chess, debating, rowing, squash, tennis, water polo and hockey. The Prep boys played the Old Johannians in football, and the Old Academians faced the young men of the St John's College Academy on Mitchell Field.



EVENTS AND VISITS

Artworks from the Pre-Prep through to Sixth Form were on display in the Pelican Quad and the magnificent music from our College and Prep bands featured at various times throughout the day. The museum was open for Old Johannians to explore the heritage and history of St John's, while others enjoyed a guided tour of the College to visit the old and the new.



A highlight of Gaudy Day was the international clash between our U17A and B sides against Eton College from the United Kingdom.

The U17B team took to the field first, showcasing an incredible performance as they clinched a hard-fought 29-12 win after a big second half.

The U17A game was an amazing contest, which saw Eton win by a narrow 19-17 scoreline. It was a slow start for our boys, who trailed at the break. A massive effort in the second half almost saw a spectacular comeback, but it wasn't to be in the end.



EVENTS AND VISITS

The Peter Raney Trophy, in memory of Peter Raney (Head of Nash 2012), was conferred by his father, Steve Raney (Nash 1974) and brother Andrew Raney (Nash 2019), for the winners of the Leavers vs Stayers XV match. The Leavers vs Stayers game traditionally played on Gaudy Day, had been played in advance in a titanic and hard-fought game, with the victorious Stayers putting up a final score of 12 - 7.

Gaudy Day ended with the Old Johannian Lunch overlooking Burger Field and the magnificent northern facade in a Marquee on Endean Field.



The Stayers with Andrew Raney (Nash 2019), Steve Raney (Nash 1974) and Mr Stuart West, Executive Headmaster.



EVENTS AND VISITS

Adsum Tea

On Gaudy Day, 2023, The St John's College Advancement Office launched a new tradition called The Adsum Tea.

The Adsum Tea is a special occasion to honour Old Johannians who matriculated 45 years or more ago. Their long-standing connection to the school is testament to the life-long impact of a St John's education, and we took the opportunity of Gaudy Day to celebrate this.

Adsum - interjection. *ad-sum*. 'ad-, səm, 'äd-, süm. used to indicate one's presence, usually in answer to a roll call is a Latin word meaning I am present, it is a word that has been part of the St John's College heritage and a word that holds special memories for many Old Johannians.

The high tea, attended by over 65 Old Johannians, was a memorable morning of reminiscing, reconnecting, and celebrating the shared experiences and successes that shaped the lives of many who walked the St John's corridors. It was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends, who have pursued diverse paths since their time at the College.

The event featured an exquisite selection of teas, accompanied by an assortment of tasty pastries, finger sandwiches, and other delicacies, with live music provided by the talented students at St John's College's renowned Music Department. The Chairman of the OJA, Graham Kerr-Phillips, and the Executive Headmaster of St John's, Stuart West, both welcomed and said a few words to all who attended. It was a joyous and celebratory morning which will become a regular tradition on the St John's College calendar.



EVENTS AND VISITS

US and UK Events

Shelley Roberts, Head of Advancement

In June this year, I was fortunate enough to travel with Executive Headmaster, Mr Stuart West, to connect with our Old Johannians living abroad. We began the trip in New York, and from there we headed to London where we were joined by the Chairman of the Old Johannian Association, Mr Graham Kerr-Phillips.

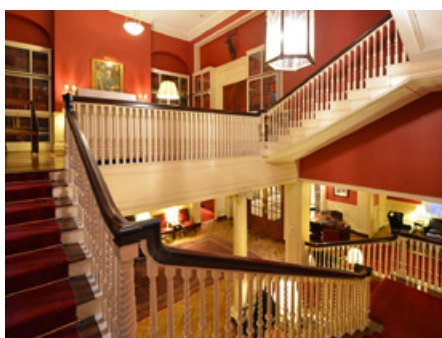
Four unforgettable events took place in these vibrant cities on opposite sides of the world. Our esteemed Old Johannians, who have found homes in the United Kingdom and the United States, joined us to connect and reconnect with each other and with the school that has formed such a significant part of their lives. These events brought together the spirit of unity and generosity that characterise St John's, and the determination to shape a bright future for our school.

New York

On 20 June 2023 we kicked things off with "Meet the Headmaster" drinks at the Michelangelo Hotel in Manhattan. It was a great opportunity to engage in a smaller, quieter setting and to meet some of our long-standing Old Johannian friends in person for the first time.

At the formal Cocktail Function on 22 June, the Harvard Club in New York City welcomed 47 distinguished guests, Old Johannians who now call the United States home. The event was nothing short of extraordinary, as laughter, stories, and memories filled the air, transporting everyone back to their cherished days at St John's College. The night was a celebration of not just the past but also the boundless possibilities of the future, as we officially launched our *Beyond 125 Campaign*, the most ambitious fundraising drive in the history of St John's College.

For more photos of the New York trip, please follow this link: [New York 2023](#)



EVENTS AND VISITS

London

The London leg began with casual “after work drinks” at the **Marquis Cornwallis** pub in Bloomsbury. We had an excellent turnout of Old Johannians from across the generations, and a good time was had by all.

For more photos of the event, please follow this link:

[Marquis Cornwallis Event](#)

Password: The Marquis Cornwallis

To download full resolution images, use the PIN: 1459



EVENTS AND VISITS

Over 200 Old Johannians gathered at the historic **East India Club** on 29 June in London for another remarkable evening where graduating classes from 1963 to 2022 experienced a delightful evening of reconnecting with old friends and making new ones. It was extraordinary to witness the powerful bonds that tie our St John's community together, transcending borders and continents. The event exuded elegance and grandeur, befitting the occasion of launching our *Beyond 125 Campaign*.

For more photos of the event please follow this link:

[East India Club Event](#)

Password: The East India Club

To download full resolution images, use the PIN: 1427



EVENTS AND VISITS

The *Beyond 125 Campaign* Launch

The highlight of the trip was undoubtedly the shared commitment to the future of St John's. Our many conversations with Old Johannians in London echoed the sentiments of those we met in New York – that the value of a St John's education cannot be measured, and that access to excellent education will continue to play a crucial role in the future of individuals, South Africa and the world.

The [*Beyond 125 Campaign*](#) aims to raise R125-million over the next five years to empower St John's with the resources needed to realise our vision for the future. As we embark on this ambitious journey, we extend our invitation to every member of the St John's community to be a part of this historic campaign. Together, we can create a legacy that will impact generations to come. Your support will not only help us achieve our fundraising target but also enable us to create a learning environment that nurtures creativity, critical thinking, and a sense of global citizenship that is accessible and welcoming to all. We will keep you updated on our progress. Together, let's shape the future of St John's and inspire the leaders of tomorrow.

You can find out more about the campaign objectives and focus areas in the Case for Support and the campaign video here: [*Beyond 125 Campaign*](#)



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ST JOHN'S COLLEGE CELLAR

A Celebration of 125 Years!

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REUNIONS

Reunion of the Class of 1973

Colin Little (Clarke 1973)

The Matric Class of 1973 held their 50th (and first-ever) reunion on the 6th of July at The Johannian Club. It won't be our last.

The idea of a reunion to mark the occasion was born in mid-2022 and slowly but surely contact details of the class of '73 were found. Everyone seemed to have kept in touch with at least one classmate so we didn't have to rely on social media!

1973 was the second year of Jan Breitenbach as headmaster. In general, the class of 1973 did not have the fondest of memories of St John's during this period. Perhaps this was why a reunion had never been attempted before.

All but one of the 72 boys who left St John's in 1973 (the net was thrown wide enough to include those expelled!) were tracked down. 10 were found to be deceased and we marked their passing with a moment's silence at lunch.

A WhatsApp Group was formed with 40 opting in a few weeks before the event. It worked very well as a way to get to know each other again. A lot of forgotten memorabilia was shared and stories told.

An impressive 27 made it to the reunion lunch at the Johannian Club on 6 July and a number stayed on for the OJA Dinner and Gaudy Day events. Six came from abroad and 13 from the Cape.

After registering under the watchful eye of the OJA's Zelda Siphenuka and sticking on name tags, three groups were guided by LV boys on a tour of the College. The tour was a mix of the old and the new and memories of teachers and pranks from long ago were brought back into focus. Our guides knew the school history far better than we did!



Registration at the Club before the tour of the College

Returning from the tour we were greeted at the OJ Club with platters of "half-time orange segments" – the perfect appetiser to the lunch that followed.



Half-time orange segments – a fond memory of winter rugby and hockey matches



Lunch was an enjoyable sit-down meal in comfortable chairs with the entire dining area of the Club at our disposal. Places changed at regular intervals so that we could all meet and get to know each other again. Of course, there just wasn't enough time to really catch up on 50 years of our lives.



Lunch table in the OJ Club

REUNIONS

Matthew and his staff did a great job to keep the food and drink flowing and yet allowing gaps for speeches to be made without interruption. The venue worked exceptionally well.

During lunch the current headmaster of the College, Stuart West, dropped in and said a few words of welcome. "Seems a decent chap" was the general opinion – quite a contrast to the headmaster in our last two years in the college was the consensus.

Luncheon Menu		Proceedings	
Starters		10:00	Registration
Caprese Salad, Prawn Cocktail, Soup		10:30	Tour of the College
Mains		12:00	Class Photo
Sirloin Steak, Grilled Kingklip potato chips, roast vegetables, salad		12:30	Lunch
Desserts			➤ Welcome
Malva Pudding, Chocolate Mousse			➤ In memoriam
Coffee, tea			➤ Starters
Cash Bar			➤ Main Course
			➤ Speeches
			➤ Dessert and coffee

The menu and proceedings programme



A wonderful day together wound up quite late and hopefully the club bar profits were boosted accordingly. All agreed that it had been hugely worthwhile and that we would make an effort to stay in touch in future.



The 27 who were at the 50th Reunion lunch:

Back Row: George Protoulis, Angus Yeats, Michael Robinson, Angus Paterson, Rob Nagel, Derek Roberts, Keith Weightman, Dave Whitfield, Martin Lawrie, Tony Roberts, Luke Barlow, Martin Brossy, Mike Worroll, Cliff Midgley, Phil Edkins | **Front Row:** Colin Little, Peter Nichas, Kevin Hermon, Robert Schaerer, John Lloyd, Russell Stirling, Ian Gill, Peter Rowland, Mark Philip, Peter Williams, Garth Bolton, Geoff Schreiner | Absent from photo: Steve Raney

REUNIONS

Reunion of the Class of 1983

Mike Dooley (Clarke 1983)

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Matric Class of 1983.

Accordingly, earlier this year a WhatsApp group was initiated to reconnect old classmates. Finally, approximately 40 of us were intermittently communicating from our respective homes around the world. Earlier in July, a small party met in London, and on Friday 21 July, 27 of us from around SA and as far afield as Botswana and Zambia, enjoyed a lamb on the spit dinner at the Johannian Club outside the school. What an amazing experience it was to see each other again after so long!

Astonishingly, despite wrinkles, a significant change in shape, and considerably less hair, many of us recognised each other, even after not meeting for almost half a century. Naturally,

there was a significant amount of time reminiscing about our boyhoods, and the plethora of antics (from both our teachers and ourselves), which would certainly not be acceptable in these modern, but perhaps not so progressive, times. Together we represented a remarkable diversity of careers and life experiences. Many of us have children who are older than we were when we left matric – some of whom have become old Johannians themselves. Each of us left with a personalised bottle of Foundation Stone Red, some of which perhaps have already been consumed, whereas others, like mine that sits on the shelf in my office, will proudly remain as a reminder of an extraordinary evening.

How wonderful it was to reunite with old friends, and leave with new ones who weren't back then, but are now.

We extend a sincere vote of thanks to Mike Dooley and Adriaan Hefer for organising, finding our classmates, and making the evening possible.



REUNIONS

Reunion of the Class of 1993

Michael van Kerckhoven (Thomson 1993)

The 125th Anniversary was truly exceptional, as it also coincided with the Class of 1993's 30th anniversary celebration.

We began preparing for our 30th reunion in October 2022 by updating our database of e-mails and creating a new logo for personal branding. To build excitement, we made a personal class of 1993 video and sent out an e-mail blast with a heartfelt message from Jerome Passmore (Head of School 1993) to save the date. The OJA helped us with Google forms to make it easier for everybody to reconnect and update their details from around the world.

The week of events was extraordinary, starting with our own organised lunch, Abel Morison Golf Day on the Friday morning, the official OJA Dinner and of course the annual infamous Gaudy Day. Each occasion allowed us to reconnect, reminisce and relive our school experiences, making cherished new memories once again.

Our reunion was, however, tinged with sadness as we

remembered our late friend and classmate, Donald Gibson. We shared a prayer to him and his family and friends on the day, celebrating his memory and the importance of friendship.

This 30th reunion we wanted to surpass our previous 20th reunion and raise the bar significantly. We organised a spit-braai on Thursday before the OJA Dinner and were delighted to receive bottles of wine from Rickety Ridge (OJ owned) as gifts with our own personal logo and pics of our class. The day was sunny and warm and we had the pleasure of having over 14 attendees, some of whom had travelled from overseas to be with us as far as America and the UK. Abby, a well-known saxophone player, providing us the music entertainment. The Class of 1973 (Father Paterson's year) was inside The Johannian Club that same day and we sent Abby to serenade them with her velvety smooth, jazzy music. The atmosphere was warm and inviting with a red carpet, balloon arch and firepits.



REUNIONS

A few of the guys in the UK also held a small reunion to catch up and share memories in South West London.



In a gesture of gratitude, we all decided to gift our teachers a bottle of 2019 Rickety Ridge Foundation Stone Red Wine and we honoured our teachers and assistants such as Mr Cliff Midgley, Father Paterson and Patson by personally presenting them with their own labelled bottle. The day was filled with laughter, excellent food and great company at The Johannian Club, where freshly made pizzas and slowly roasted lamb delighted everyone. The ice-cold beers were also overflowing the ice-buckets as if we had our very own personal genie!



We even had a fun nerf gun competition, although our military training skills were clearly lacking as most of us left school as military service became voluntary.



Friday morning our Golf Professionals joined one another for a four-ball to show the rest of the years how it is done at the Abel Morison Golf Day! Gavin Heron, Nick Sproule, Mark Timperley and Jonathan Holden looking dapper!

The Friday-night OJA Dinner was a special moment with 31 OJs and our wives. The Boar's Head and school Anthem added to the nostalgic ambiance of the beautifully decorated room with fairy lights. We watched a video showcasing the school's grandeur and the changes it underwent since our time there and what the OJA and SJC have managed to accomplish over the years in building the school into what it is today. Fond memories of Mr Levy and Darragh hall lunch flooded back with champagne and red wine flowing as we enjoyed a delightful three-course meal while continuing to catch up with old friends in a relaxing environment.

The night was filled with picture-taking to capture moments with friends and wives. As the evening passed by quickly, we knew we'd have another opportunity to reconnect on Gaudy Day.



Gaudy Day began with a cuppa coffee/tea in the cold July morning in David Quad. We relished being back in the wooden pews singing old worship hymns, which immediately took us straight back to 1993. Father Paterson spoke about our class and his meaningful experiences during that time. His sermon and message left a lasting impression on us and with those who couldn't join watching it on live stream.

The incense catching the beams of light flooding the Chapel just as we remembered it. We thoroughly enjoyed the historical tour walking and talking to the various families and seeing the new majestic changes at the school. It was finished off with good sport and rugby against Eton and enjoying the SJC war cries! We all came together at The Boar's Head Pub at the Johannian Club in the late afternoon to toast the few days to one another and say our last goodbyes until the next time. We even made connections with other years from our Houses, some of whom were our Matrics in Remove.

Overall, the 125th Anniversary and 30th Class of 1993 reunion were truly memorable, filled with joy, camaraderie and new cherished memories that will stay with us for years to come. Until we meet again.

LUX VITA CARITAS



— 125 —

LIGHT ON THE NIGHT

30 SEPTEMBER 2023

Telling the story of **125 years** of St John's College in lights



Tickets via
web tickets



Featuring

**MANGO GROOVE +
ST JOHN'S COLLEGE MUSIC**

www.sjc.co.za/lightonthenight

WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE OUR OJs?

Omphile Ramela (Hodgson 2006)

The recent appointment of Old Johannian and former Cape Cobras and Lions batsman Omphile Ramela (Hodgson 2006) as the new Chief Executive Officer of Border Cricket is a proud moment for St John's College. As a school that prides itself on providing holistic education, St John's enjoys celebrating our Johannian community who embody our ethos of being rightly trained in body, mind and character.

As Omphile takes up his role as the new CEO, he aims to lead all aspects of the development of players and administration within the Border region. "This position has a broader impact on the community. By driving the growth of cricket here, we aim to pay it forward and empower aspiring young cricketers, provide them with opportunities to excel, and contribute to the overall wellbeing of the community through sport," he said.



This new role holds great significance for Omphile and his family and is a culmination of his passion for the game and his commitment to the development of cricket. He believes this is the perfect opportunity to make a meaningful impact on the sport that has played a pivotal role in shaping his life.

Omphile has always been passionate about cricket. From just 10 years old, it was clear that there wasn't anything else he wanted to excel in. His mother, his biggest inspiration, instilled the values of hard work, determination and integrity in her son. Omphile also credits his coaches, mentors, and teachers — Adrian Norris, Lewis Manthata, Dr Daniel Pretorius at St John's and Protea Coach Shukri Conrad, to name a few — who influenced his cricket and professional life.

As an Old Johannian, he feels that St John's prepared him for his career by providing him with a holistic education and a supportive environment that nurtured his talents, both academically and athletically. "The discipline, leadership skills and sense of camaraderie I learned at St John's have been invaluable in my career," he said.

Looking back at his cricket career, Omphile has achieved great things and experienced challenges. "Not playing for South Africa

OJ History Lens

Jon Tilley (Thomson 1951)



Opposite page 98 of Venture of Faith is a list of 13 boys in the very first SJC confirmation class. One of these boys, Ferguson Rettie, went on to become Chief Electrical Engineer of the then Rhodesian Railways. My dad, Arthur Tilley, had the contract to supply the railways with Exide batteries manufactured in England, so they became friends. Ferg insisted that I start school at St John's, but with World War II raging, my dad's income

was curtailed by a lack of shipments. I started at King Edward Prep, which was charging 10 shillings per term. At the end of the war, my dad's income increased, his common sense prevailed and Ferg still insisted. I therefore entered St John's as a Remove, under the headmastership of Rev. SH Clarke. Ferg suffered from a medical condition necessitating treatment in Johannesburg where he and his wife were regular visitors, staying at our home. I kept Ferg informed on a regular basis with a teenager's view of happenings at the College. I was at his bedside a few days before he died.

Jon Tilley, at 88 the oldest and only living member of the original group of 21, selected to be the foundation for the South African Society of Animal Production.

This organisation, consisting of 20 professors and holders of doctoral qualifications included Jon Tilley as the 21st member with his Bachelor's degree.

This exception was made as Jon's success with the urea block hailed by Dr Wim Verbeek, as the greatest breakthrough in ruminant nutrition after Sir Arnold Theiler's work 50 years previously relating to the necessity of phosphate supplementation for ruminants.

The original group has since come to represent animal scientists as an important part of the legally recognised professional authority under which the scientists may register as professional natural scientists, adding the qualification Pr. Sci. Nat. to their names.

was undoubtedly a big disappointment in my cricket career. However, it taught me a valuable lesson about the importance of developing a singular focus when pursuing a goal. While I had a strong desire to represent my country, I also recognised the significance of balancing my aspirations with academic pursuits. I learned that maintaining a well-rounded approach to life is crucial, even in pursuing one's dreams. As economists would say, it's important to weigh up the opportunity cost," he said.

Omphile advises any student interested in a cricket career to work hard, stay dedicated and never stop learning. "Practise consistently, seek guidance from experienced coaches, and embrace every opportunity to improve your skills. Also, remember to balance your academics and personal development alongside cricket, as a well-rounded approach will help you succeed both on and off the field."

WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE OUR OJs?

Stephen Wattrus (Nash 2009)

Earlier this year, Old Johannian Stephen Wattrus, along with the cast of the show, won a Tony on Broadway in New York for the Broadway show "Take Me Out". As you may know, Tonies are the awards for Broadway shows.

The cast won a Tony in 2022 and the highly acclaimed show was on Broadway for two runs through February 2023.

The cast included television and stage actor, Jesse Tyler Ferguson, known for the television show *Modern Family*, and various Broadway shows, and Jesse Williams from the television show *Grey's Anatomy* and a number of Hollywood movies.

Stephen was originally cast as an understudy and ended the run on Broadway in one of the principal roles, including on closing night after a soldout run, appearing on stage in a main role with Ferguson and Williams.

Stephen was at the Old Johannian event (he attended the drinks on Tuesday night) in New York in June where we had the opportunity to meet Stuart West and Shelley Roberts. It was a fantastic event!



WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE OUR OJs?

Mark Simon (Hill 1983)

Mark Simon, a prominent member of our Old Johannian community, has been making waves in the business world. As a founding member of Plum Systems, Mark has been at the forefront of a groundbreaking project that promises to have a significant impact on the entrepreneurial landscape in Southern Africa.

In collaboration with the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), Plum Systems is spearheading the development of the Business Innovation & Incubation Centre (BiiC). This joint project aims to provide a nurturing platform for graduate student business projects that combine social impact with commercial viability.

At the core of BiiC's offerings is a comprehensive incubation programme, thoughtfully designed to empower students to transform their ideas into successful businesses. Through mentorship, technology assistance and access to funding and resources, the programme paves the way for sustainable enterprises that add value to society. Emphasising social and environmental impact, BiiC is committed to fostering a new generation of responsible entrepreneurs.

Drawing on the expertise and resources of the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, BiiC is a unique and innovative incubation and innovation centre, poised to propel graduate student projects with a social impact to commercial success.

Mark's exemplary work as an entrepreneur working on vanguard digital community solutions drawing from his extensive experience as a Digital Business Solutions Specialist during his 28 years in Cape Town, speaks volumes about his dedication and commitment to the community. His involvement in the establishment of BiiC, along with his fellow founding members in Plum Systems, Lucien Paulsen, Sean De Grunche and Chris Mulhall, and the (Acting) HOD of the Graduate Centre for Management at CPUT, Prof. Michael Twum-Darko is a testament to their passion for driving positive change and fostering innovation.

Furthermore, Plum Systems is a dynamic think tank, renowned for delivering innovative ICT solutions to a wide range of industries. Their diverse team of experts, known for their "Plum Intelligence" (🍷), continues to provide invaluable services in development, networking, software architecture and design.

We commend Mark and Plum Systems on their visionary efforts and look forward to witnessing BiiC's journey towards becoming a leading incubation centre for socially responsible businesses in Africa.



WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE OUR OJs?

Nicholas John Wilhelm Kühne (Alston 1998)

I left St John's in 1998 for England on a cricket scholarship to Saint Lawrence College in Kent. Once I returned to South Africa, I studied at the University of Johannesburg, completed my marketing and communications degree and then started my working career. I've worked at Nando's, MTV, Comedy Central, Interbrand, Hunt Lascaris and finally started my own brand strategy agency serving Africa, Asia and the Middle East. We have lived in Nigeria and Malaysia and I have now come to a point in my career where I've moved into teaching, emigrated to Oslo with my family to lecture in digital marketing at Noroff University College and continue my business from abroad.

I have two sons, Harrison and Kingsley, who were on the waiting list for St John's prep, but since we moved they are now at a local Norwegian school learning Norwegian and doing splendidly.

A further bit of background: I am married to the wonderful Alice Kühne (née Liao). Now some OJ history: my grandfather and great uncle were both old boys, both my uncles Ron and Mike Gill and variety of cousins went to St John's, which is three generations of OJs. My grandfather, Harold Johnston Gill, was at St John's in the 1920s, both through the Preparatory School and High School. Even though he was a boarder (the family had a farm in Standerton) his mother bought a house across the road so that he and his friends had home-cooked meals when they wanted it, which I dare say was an improvement on the grub served at school! During World War II, determined to see action, he gave up pilot training to become a tailgunner (a rather dangerous role I am told) operating in Egypt and Italy.

And life carries on!



WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE OUR OJs?

John Woodhouse (Thomson 1963)

An extraordinary opportunity!

In the week before Holy Week, Faiths together in Croydon were invited to the Brit School, which is an outstanding Croydon school for training musicians and actors, to speak about faith in our lives. This had never happened before as the school does not cover Religious studies. My Sikh and Hindu friends and the Rabbi all spoke about prayer and meditation. I focussed on spirituality as I am a trained spiritual accompanier and went on to say that Christianity is unique because I have a personal God who is my brother and friend as well as my Lord. I attempt to live the Easter gospel in my life. When asked how inclusive we are I had to admit that while the Church of England, where I am organist, is an inclusive church, the Roman Catholics are not always as welcoming as we might wish and the Rabbi agreed

that the same could be said about some synagogues. I spoke about my work on promoting the work of Pope Francis on the climate crisis and I urged the musicians to share their music. If you are asked to play or sing at a wedding or funeral, do it, as it will always be remembered.

The whole of Year 10 paid very careful attention and it was a shame that there was no time to hear their questions. We enjoyed a tour of the school, which has excellent facilities and there will definitely be a follow-up. I have already suggested a showing of the film "The Letter", with discussion about the encyclical by Pope Francis Laudato Si'! My musical scarf was much admired but I am keeping it!



The Big One

How did it feel at 76 to be going on my first real demo and march? A bit daunting, but the two days I spent were fantastic and fun! We started at St John's Waterloo with a service of praise and lament and then we walked to the Shell building where Magda, who leads the European Laudato Si' animators and had travelled from Poland, read the prayer of Pope Francis from Laudato Si'. Led on by the Salvation Army band, we reached Parliament Square to find thousands more protestors. The second day I settled at the Faith hub (I had walked 6.2km with my stick the day before!) and Fr Joe Ryan celebrated Mass. This was very special. Fr Joe said he had waited 52 years for this day and he produced a copy of Laudato Si'. The Gospel was the road to Emmaus and it was noticeable how the congregation grew



WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE OUR OJs?

during the Mass. This was a fantastic opportunity to meet 20 animators from around the country who I had known on Zoom for two years and in fact I met lots of Catholic and Anglican friends as well. The variety of protestors was just staggering and all was well organised and stewarded. It was good to see families taking a full part. The reason I am so committed to this cause is that I want a better world for my three grandsons. We must all do what we can!



David Hadfield (Alston 1969)

David moved to the UK in 1979 to study for a Master's degree in Engineering. He retired as a consulting partner with PwC in 2008 and embarked on an unexpected journey in Paralympic sport, setting up a new international governing body (World Boccia) for one of the 22 summer Paralympic sports, boccia. In his 12 years as President of World Boccia, he helped grow the global reach of boccia from 30 countries to over 80. He is delighted that South Africa have qualified for the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games for the first time.

David was awarded the honour of an Officer of the British Empire (OBE) by Queen Elizabeth II in her Jubilee Honours list for 'services to sport', and has recently been appointed to the Paralympic Order, the highest accolade of the International Paralympic Committee for his contribution to Paralympic Sport.



WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE OUR OJs?

Peter Hyslop (Thomson 1973)

Peter Hyslop (Class of 1973, left St John's in 1972), has been busy of late, coordinating a community exhibition project for St Thomas's Church, Rondebosch in Cape Town. A formal opening of the exhibition (see attached photo) took place on 28 July, and the show featured works by over 50 exhibitors, ranging from Langa to Constantia. The exhibition was well supported by visitors throughout the weekend, with a significant number of works being sold.

Peter Hyslop hopes that next time he stages the exhibition, OJ artists, photographers and craftsmen based in Cape Town will consider exhibiting their work at the show. Peter Hyslop email: robertpeteroateshyslop@gmail.com



IN MEMORIAM

Kiernan Forbes (Alston 2006)

The Old Johannian Association would like to extend our deepest condolences to the family, friends, and fans of one of St John's College's favourite sons, Kiernan Forbes, also known as AKA. There are no words to express the extent of the tragedy of Kiernan's passing as it has left a void in so many lives and so many spheres that can never be filled.

Kiernan was an all-rounder during his time at St John's College, not only an avid basketball player but also as a leader of the Interact Club as the club's treasurer. Kiernan was a precocious musical talent, beginning his journey in the music industry while still at school as a member of the Hip Hop trio Entity with schoolmates Nhlanhla Makenna (Head of School) and Sizwe Mpofu-Walsh (Second Prefect).

Kiernan's talent as a musician only continued to blossom after matriculating, becoming a household name in South Africa and the continent, and receiving international acclaim.

The Old Johannian Community continues to be extremely proud to call Kiernan one of our own and we keep his parents, Tony and Lynn Forbes, and his daughter, Kairo, in our prayers. Rest in peace, Supa Mega.



John Henry Gordon (Nash 1953)

It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that the Johannian Community learned of the passing of John Henry Gordon (Nash 1953) on Monday 30 January 2023. John started his school career in the College and played for the First XV rugby team in matric. He was awarded a Team Blazer for commitment to rugby.

He had a long business career, from auditing to executive director of various companies, and after retirement, continued at Andre Genfood trading in agricultural commodities and as Chairman of the Grain Seeds Board.

He served as chairman of the Old Johannian Association from 1974 to 1985. During his time as chairman, the Old Johannian Association donated the stained glass in the Memorial Chapel to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Association.

John is survived by his children, Mark Gordon (Thomson 1978), Jane Lane (St John's Pre-Preparatory Headmistress) and Peter Gordon (Thomson 1988) and his seven grandchildren, Nick Gordon, Jenna Gordon, Matt Lane, Rob Lane, Gaby Gordon, James Gordon and Max Gordon.

Cliff Midgley, a retired staff member of St John's College, when he heard of John's passing, said: "John was devoted to the St John's community. I would see him attend his son and grandson's cricket matches every weekend. You could see his dedication and loyalty to St John's College. His work ethic was impeccable and he will be sorely missed."



IN MEMORIAM

John was an extremely loyal and proud supporter of St John's. He loved school sports and he enjoyed nothing more than to watch his grandsons participate. He always cheered and clapped for good play no matter the team.

Damian Boyce (Nash 1981), former chairman of the Old Johannian Association, stated: "As a past chairman of the OJA, he was a fountain of knowledge and encouragement. He was not afraid to speak his mind around matters he considered important and in so doing shared many insights. He was a man of integrity and innate fairness."

John loved and was a great support for his family. The Gordon family joined the Old Johannian Association dinner as honoured guests in 2017 and his family, all either at St John's or Old Johannians, filled two tables in Darragh Hall.

More recently, John had suffered from some health setbacks and experienced much discomfort. In his pragmatic way about his situation, he never complained.

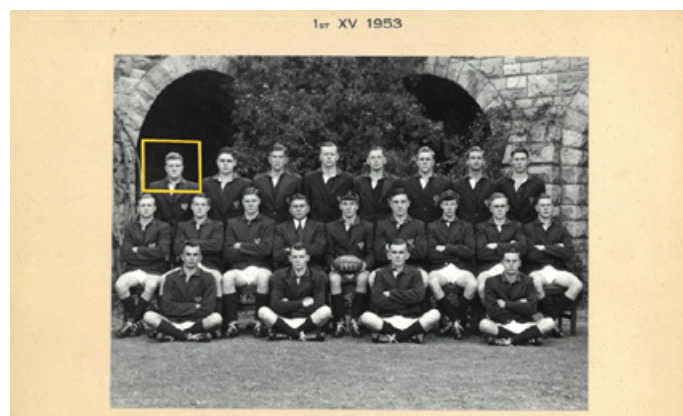
I will miss John's contribution to St John's, our conversations and his wise guidance.

The St John's community has lost a quintessential Old Johannian. He will be sorely missed but not forgotten. *Lux Vita Caritas.*"

Gavin Houlston (Clarke 1991): "John was a true gentleman and an Old Johannian. We spent many afternoons watching my son and his grandson playing cricket. He was passionate and offered strong opinions about the school traditions. He would always support the Rugby Festival every year. I am sad that I will not be seeing him on the sideline supporting the College this



The plaque outside The Memorial Chapel commemorating 75 years of the Old Johannian Association.



John Gordon, top left was a part of the first XV rugby team.



Jane Lane, Headmistress of St John's Pre-Preparatory and her father John Gordon at Gaudy Day in 2018.

IN MEMORIAM

Peter Herbert Lapping (Nash 1958/Sixth Form 1959)

It is with regret that we announce the passing of Peter Herbert Lapping (Nash 1958/Sixth Form 1959).

Peter Herbert Lapping was a School Prefect in Nash House during his time at St John's College. He was captain of the 2nd XV rugby (occasionally playing for the firsts) and played 1st XI Cricket. He was also the recipient of the prestigious Golden Eagle Award in 2009 for his caring, compassionate and principled leadership in the field of education and his selfless service beyond the call of duty to champion education.

Peter was born in India on 8 August 1941, where his father was a medical officer during the Second World War.

His family relocated to South Africa after the war, and he was educated at St John's College. He was awarded a first-class BA Honours in History from the University of Natal and went on to read Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Lincoln College in Oxford.

Upon his graduation, he taught for a year at Reed's School in Cobham before being appointed Head of History at Loretto School in 1967. He remained there until 1979, also serving as Housemaster from 1972 to 1979, before being appointed Headmaster of Shiplake College in Oxfordshire. In 1988 he was appointed Headmaster of Sherborne School until his retirement in 2000.

Stuart West, Executive Headmaster at St John's College, had the privilege of meeting Peter during his visit to Old Johannians in London last year. "I had lunch with Peter and Diana (Wizzy) at their beautiful cottage near the village of Minchampton, where they were both in good health and spirits. It was wonderful to hear Peter's story of how he came to South Africa and St John's as he fondly recalled the kindness of then Headmaster, the Revd Sydney Herbert Clarke, who welcomed him and his family to the College."

He also offered keen insight into his time of Headship at Sherborne School, how he built their Foundation and the close partnership he forged between the school and the Old Shirburian Society to promote the sustainability of that great institution. Peter and Diana were also regular and generous donors to the St John's College Foundation in the United Kingdom, supporting our scholarship programmes.



"Peter was a giant in educational leadership, was an ardent cricket fan and a passionate golfer. We had much to talk about," said Stuart.

In recent years, he met up with Peter Hamilton, Warwick Peacock and James Ridley, his fellow Nash House classmates of 1958. The Old Johannians made a pilgrimage to "a few miles above Tintern Abbey", where Wordsworth wrote his famous poem. The poem had been part of their English Literature syllabus in matric and had made a deep impression on them.

"The St John's College and Old Johannian communities are deeply saddened at Peter's passing, and we send our condolences, love and support to Wizzy and the Lapping family," said Stuart.

He is survived by his wife, Diana, children Mark and Joanna, and grandchildren.



IN MEMORIAM

All OJs who have passed

OLD JOHANNIAN	LEFT ST JOHN'S	DIED
Michael Rademeyer	Thomson 1958	3 May 2022
John Clarke	Thomson 1966	2 July 2022
David Dane	Thomson 1960	3 July 2022
Quintin Davis	Hill 1956	7 July 2022
Patrick Dickson	Hill 1959	24 July 2022
Peter Beart	Hill 1959	July 2022
John Kane-Berman	Alston 1963	July 2022
Richard van Coppenhangen	Nash 1958	August 2022
Tim Waring	Hill 1958	8 August 2022
Nick Irvine	Clarke 1997	13 August 2022
Matthew Baerveldt	Thomson 1958	22 August 22
Dr John Milne	Hill 1958	September 2022
Charles Combrink	Clarke 1975	6 September 2022
Juliano Mordoh	Runge 2020	November 2022
Dr Anthony Meyers	Hill 1951	October 2022
Sonwabile Makaula	Hodgson 2022	5 January 2023
John Gordon <i>(OJA Chairman from 1974 to 1985)</i>	Nash 1953	29 January 2023
Kiernan Jarryd Forbes <i>(Also known as AKA to fans)</i>	Alston 2006	10 February 2023
Father Ian Macintosh	Nash 1946	March 2023
Peter Lapping <i>(Golden Eagle Award recipient)</i>	Nash 1959	15 May 2023
Peter Cousin de Kock	Thomson 1966	May 2023
Donald Gibson	Alston 1993	11 June 2023
Peter "Slug" Thurlow	Alston 1966	June 2023

THE SCHOOL PRAYER

Lord God our Father, who art
 Light and Life and Love, look down
 in love upon our College of Saint John:
 make it to be a home of religious discipline,
 sound learning and goodwill,
 which may send forth many
 rightly trained in body, mind and character
 to serve Thee well in Church and State:
 supply our wants,
 and give us increase as shall seem Thee good,
 and let Thine angels drive away all evil from us;
 through Thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
 Amen.



SCHOOL NEWS

Happy Birthday St John's College

St John's College started from humble beginnings as a parish school of St Mary's Anglican Church in downtown Johannesburg, opening its doors on 1 August 1898 to just six boys. 125 years later, St John's remains a beacon of academic excellence on Houghton Ridge, on the edge of Johannesburg, with more than 1500 students enrolled.

To celebrate our 125th birthday, students and staff were treated to a special performance by *America's Got Talent* finalists, the Mzansi Youth Choir, led by our Head of African Music (who is also their choirmaster), Sidumo Nyamezele. Mzansi Youth Choir set Burger Field on fire with their amazing performance and lineup of songs, including 'Happy Birthday'!

Sifiso Mbatha (UVI Runge), Aden Solomens (UV Nash), Leah Morell (The Bridge), Daniel Wilson (Upper II), James Berriman (UV Clayton) and Mr Patson Moshidi, who share their birthdays with St John's, cut the special 125 birthday cake, and all students from the Bridge Nursery to our Sixth Form, enjoyed party cupcakes.

As he addressed our community from the stage, Lester Lalla, Headmaster of St John's Preparatory, reminded us all that life is about contributions. "If this great school is going to make another 125 years, it needs you, and it needs me, to make a contribution. We look back with thanks, and we look forward with anticipation. Long live St John's! Happy Birthday, St John's!"



SCHOOL NEWS

College Dash

After a brief hiatus, the College Dash was back this year, with a representative from each of the Houses sprinting around the Deane Yates and Alan Wilcock Vulindlela buildings at high speed.

The College Dash is based on The Great Court Run at Cambridge, which featured in the Academy Award-winning *Chariots of Fire*, where students attempted to run around the Great Court in the time it takes the clock to strike 12 times. As St John's College is built on a similar system of quads, Mr Martin Huysamer, Deputy Head: Student Affairs, was inspired to re-introduce the dash.

The College Dash existed years ago in a different format and along a different course. When reintroduced in the early 2000s, our young men ran through the three main quadrangles of the College building, starting and ending in the iconic David Quad. Despite padding the various walls and pillars with mattresses from the boarding Houses, the slate surfaces proved too

slippery and led to some spectacular mishaps, which forced it to be moved to its current course.

The race requires nerves of steel as a representative from each House, sporting a bike or cricket helmet and any other padding they can find, hotfoot it around the course as they make their way to the finish line. The event is a great 'fun-raiser' as our young men take on this act of daring and physical commitment. Taeg Mosehla, Head of School, proudly took the trophy back to Hill. On hand to share the fun was Dion Libera, Head of School in 1985, the last known Head of School to win the event in his heyday.

The College Dash is one of a number of quirky traditions alongside events such as Grobs, Gaudy Day, the making of pancakes in David Quad on Shrove Tuesdays, Night War Cries, our unique nomenclatures and awards such as the Golden Eagle, which contribute to the unique nature of St John's College.



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE & ST JOHN'S SIXTH FORM



OPEN DAY

SAT 30 SEP | 08h00 to 12h30

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
Grade 8 to 12

ST JOHN'S SIXTH FORM
Cambridge AS & A Levels

Please pre-book your tour at <https://sjc.co.za/openday2023>



SCAN TO BOOK



SCHOOL NEWS



FEDA

St John's is delighted to announce that FIREHOUSE has won Best Production at FEDA!

FIREHOUSE follows the story of courageous young cadet firefighters stationed in the inner city of Johannesburg on the night shift, offering a momentary glimpse into the close bonds formed between firefighters, who run towards danger when everyone else is running away from it.

Using physical theatre, actors transform a small space and a ladder into a myriad of imagined worlds, set against an Emergency Services in crisis and a country rampant with uncertainty.

We are incredibly proud of all our drama students as both our entries, **FREAK** and **FIREHOUSE**, were recognised in multiple categories in this year's festival.

The St John's College Backstage Team was also awarded the **Best Stage Crew**, which they shared with St Alban's College. This award is chosen by the Joburg Theatre Technical Team for professional conduct.

Take a bow, ladies and gentlemen!



PLEASE UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

We are wanting to ensure that we have updated details for Old Johannians. Should you have not completed this survey as yet, please can you complete and encourage as many other Old Johannians to complete it too – <https://sjc.co.za/oja>

We really appreciate your assistance and we are hoping that together we can update our data and improve our communications with you.

Should you wish to chat further, please do not hesitate to email Zelda Siphenuka at info@oja.co.za.

SOCIAL MEDIA

By following our pages, you'll be kept up to date with exciting news, upcoming events and inspiring stories. Spread the word among your fellow Old Johannians and let's strengthen the Old Johannian Network on social media.



www.linkedin.com



www.facebook.com

OJs IN THE SPOTLIGHT

You're invited to nominate fellow Old Johannians for the "OJs in the Spotlight" Campaign!

The 'OJs in the Spotlight' campaign actively promotes OJs within the Worldwide Network of Old Johannians and to develop a more active Old Johannian network.

To nominate OJs to be promoted through the campaign, please contact Zelda Siphenuka at info@oja.co.za



Contact: Zelda Siphenuka  info@oja.co.za  011 645 3178

