



RUSTENBURG ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER



March 2024

Hello Rustenburg Alumnae,

What an amazing start to 2024, quarter one has been nothing but exciting and huge buzz. Firstly, congratulations to the E23s for their outstanding achievements in the NSC matric examinations. With a remarkable 100% pass rate, our learners have truly exemplified dedication and commitment to academic excellence. Welcome E23s to the alumnae community. You are now officially “Old Girls” and we hope you are enjoying getting your first newsletter as an alumna.

Recently we celebrated Rustenburg Girls' School's 130th birthday with a heartwarming gathering and reflected on our rich history and joyous milestones. Thank you to all alumnae, staff, learners and past teachers who joined in the festivities. Thank you to those who contributed to the planning and execution of all the events and those who shared their feedback on the celebrations with us. We appreciate you. It was such a pleasure meeting some of you and connecting with those from afar too.

Looking ahead, we have exciting events planned, including alumnae mentorship talks and reunions. These opportunities foster networking, mentorship, and the continuation of the strong bonds formed at Rustenburg.

A sincere thank you to the Rustenburg Alumnae donors whose generosity support the Rustenburg Alumnae Bursary Funds and special awards that transform the lives of aspiring learners. As we uphold the values of excellence, community, and empowerment, let us, as a community, continue to inspire the next generation of leaders.



Asonle Kotu

Rustenburg Alumnae Co-ordinator



Thank you all for joining the 130th celebrations



Photos: Tam Emery, Morgan Hunter, Anna Irving



[Follow this link to view and download more images](#)

RGHS 130th Birthday Assembly

Past pupils gathered at the annual assembly event which celebrates the school's rich history. Esteemed guests included past principals, Mrs Mary van Blerk, Dr. Elizabeth Fullard and Ms. Laura Bekker, who played pivotal roles in shaping the school's legacy. Recognition was also extended to past staff members, Ms. Biddy Ryan and Ms. Pat Hanger, whose dedication left a lasting impact on the school community.

The gathering was made even more special with the presence of the following alumnae groups that gathered to reminisce. They represented various year groups: E47, E54, E56, E60, E61, E64, E75, E65, E68, E70, E74, E78, E98, E99, E00, E02, E03, E10, E14, E16, E22, E23. The oldest "Old Girl" in attendance was Maureen Edmond who matriculated with the class of 1947.

Alumnae mothers and daughters who joined us on the day were Anne Dixon E54 with daughter Dianne Goodill (nee Dixon and who attended RGHS until Grade 9) and Daphne Colburn E68 with daughter Elaine Pienaar E00.

The event featured awards presentations to deserving recipients that recognize their outstanding achievements and contributions to the school. Thank you to all who joined us. We had an amazing time. See you next year again.



RGJS Celebrates 130 with Junior School Learners



On Friday 2nd February, Rustenburg Girls' Junior School celebrated its 130th Birthday with Junior school learners. The day started with an assembly where Mrs Petersen launched and explained the theme - The History of the 130 years and showed the Rustybugs some uniform items, magazines and photos from the past. Mrs Lexi Slabbert, a past teacher, was the fabulous guest speaker who shared some insight into the teaching days in the 1970s - no WiFi, Internet, cellphones and no stiletto heels in the hall!

Catherine Pike (former Rustybug who is now also a teacher at RGJS) taught the learners, staff and special guests the 130 Theme Song which is a collaboration of the Junior Schools' theme songs from the past few years and which celebrates everything special about being a Rustybug.

The learners enjoyed a Bug Buddy Teddy Bears' Picnic and afterwards, they created some beautiful wind chimes out of recycled materials. They ended the day dancing away to their favourite songs.



WATCH NOW

[Click to watch the 2024 RGJS 130 theme song](#)

RGHS learners lead Birthday Cheer at 130th Celebration

Last year marked a special occasion as alumnae were introduced to a new tradition: The Birthday Cheer. This lively tradition continues and alumnae were wowed again by the "gees" the learners have.

Re-live the moment by watching the featured video which showcases this year's performance. Following the cheer, all old and current principals joined in singing "Happy Birthday" and participated in the cake-cutting ceremony.



WATCH NOW

Celebrating the Impact of Alumnae Donors

The Rustenburg Alumnae Committee expresses deep gratitude to donors whose generosity uplifts and transforms lives. Donor support through fundraising and sponsorships significantly advances educational opportunities for aspiring learners via the Rustenburg Alumnae Bursary Funds.

At the 130th Birthday Celebration, prestigious accolades showcasing the collective efforts of the alumnae community were awarded. Caitlin Anstey E23, Kelly Prowse E22 and Erin Coull E21 received the Diamond Jubilee Award for Top Matriculant in their matric year. The Rustenburg Alumnae Bursary aided Lauren Schaefer E17, Scarlett Lethbridge E23 and Amaan Samaai E23 in pursuing tertiary education.

The Jean Jackson Annual Scholarship, supporting academic excellence over five years, was awarded. The Palmam Meruit Award recognized Hlubi Mboya E95 for outstanding achievements. The Angela Harding Leadership Award honoured Gabriella Rhoodt and Rethabile Amy Kaira for their positive impact on society. Alumnae contributions have an impact beyond financial assistance as they inspire hope and opportunity which empowers young women to pursue their dreams confidently.



Join Us in Empowering Future Leaders

We're expanding our Rustenburg Alumnae bursaries and awards to reach more learners, and we invite you to join us in making a tangible difference. Your support is crucial in providing educational opportunities and fostering leadership skills.

Here's how you can help:

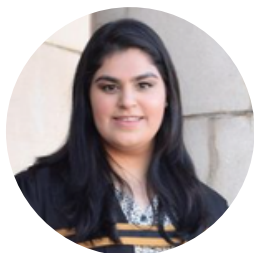
- Monthly Donations: Contribute as little as R150.00/month through [**Quicket**](#).
- Sponsor an Academic Bursary: Support a special bursary for a learner's educational development at RGJS and RGHS
- Leadership Development Sponsorship: Assist us in nurturing leadership skills in our learners at RGJS and RGHS.
- Corporate Sponsorship: Companies can sponsor tailored developmental programs starting from R100k and above.

For more information, reach out to Asonle Kotu at kotua@rghs.org.za or use this [**donation link**](#) provided to give via Quicket. Your support will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of young women and nurturing leaders who will make a positive impact on society. Together, let's empower and inspire the next generation of leaders.

Rustenburg Alumnae Committee Welcomes New Members and Elects Office-Bearers

The Rustenburg Alumnae Committee recently held its Annual General Meeting (AGM), where two new committee members were welcomed, and a new Treasurer along with vice presidents were elected. The committee serves to connect past pupils, foster relationships between schools and alumnae, promote the schools' interests and welfare and administer bursaries.

Geneé Bennett (Taylor) E94 was elected as the new Treasurer; Jordan Tame E11 and Zandile Matshaya E07 were elected as co-vice presidents in a split honorary position; Farheen Mahmood E15 and Caitlyn Anstey E23 joined the committee as new members. These appointments and additions signify a commitment to furthering the Rustenburg legacy and strengthening alumnae connections.



**Farheen Mahmood
E15**



**Caitlyn Anstey
E23**



**Zandile Matshaya
E07**



**Jordan Tame
E11**



**Geneé Bennett
E94**

Alumnae News

Jessica Banks E15 Joins Rustenburg Girls' Junior School as a Teacher



Jessica Banks E15, returns to RGJS as a teacher, bringing a passion for education and a dedication to fostering growth. Jessica is pursuing her Masters in Psychology of Education and her commitment to lifelong learning shapes her teaching.

Outside of school, she enjoys Cape Town adventures, dancing, and family time with her beloved bulldogs. Her vibrant personality, including a love for pink and coffee, enriches her interactions.

Her return signifies a full-circle moment. The Rustenburg community warmly welcomes Jessica and recognizes her excellence and compassion. Her guidance and contribution to holistic development will inspire students to embark on a journey of discovery of boundless potential which would extend her impact beyond the classroom.

Welcome E23s to the Alumnae Community

Rustenburg Girls' High School is happy to announce the outstanding achievements of the Class of 2023 on their recent Matric Results Day, achieving an impressive 100% pass rate. We warmly congratulate the Class of 2023 and welcome them into the alumnae community. As they begin their journey as alumnae, they carry the pride of belonging to a legacy of excellence.

Special recognition goes to Caitlin Anstey, Caitlin Jackson, Tejal Naiker and Stella Lazarus for their exceptional accomplishments across the province. Caitlin Anstey's joint 4th place ranking in the Western Cape is particularly noteworthy, a testament to her academic dedication.

We congratulate the E23s on their remarkable achievements and wish them all the best as they embark on their journeys. We eagerly anticipate their continued success in the future. Their success is a reflection of their dedication and commitment, and the school is proud to have played a part in their academic journey. We look forward to seeing their continued success as they take their first steps into adulthood.



Rustenburg Girls' High honours Hlubi Mboya-Arnold E95 with Palmam Meruit Award

Rustenburg Girls' High welcomed back alumna Hlubi Mboya-Arnold E95, a celebrated actress and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, as a guest speaker. Hlubi shared fond memories of her time at Rustenburg where she actively participated in sports, music, drama and debate which shaped her vibrant personality.

Her journey from Langa township to Rustenburg Girls' High laid the groundwork for a remarkable career. Initially aspiring to become a South African Ambassador of Foreign Affairs, she pursued acting in Johannesburg. Despite challenges, her determination led to a decade-long journey in the industry.

In a significant recognition, Hlubi received the prestigious Palmam Meruit Award from the school. The Palmam Meruit Award, rooted in the Latin phrase "Palmam Qui Meruit Ferat" (Let whoever earns the reward, bear it), celebrates the hard work, triumph, and dedication of our alumnae. Through this award, we honour exceptional women making a positive difference in their communities and beyond. Through this accolade, we celebrate the dedication and impact of exceptional women like Hlubi who inspire us all with their achievements. Congratulations, Hlubi, on this well-deserved honour! Your journey is a testament to perseverance and excellence which inspires current and future generations of Rustenburg Girls Schools.



Alumnae host “Ask-an-Alumna” table at RGHS Career Expo

Rustenburg Girls' High School (RGHS) organized a dynamic Career Development Expo on March 11, 2024, offering students invaluable insights into a multitude of career paths where learners gained a firsthand look into potential future endeavours.

The expo featured alumnae who shared their experiences and expertise in diverse fields with participation from over 30 further studies institutions.

Among them was Marnie McGowan E19, a passionate scientist currently pursuing her MSc in Immunology which focuses on TB infections. Her advocacy for STEM careers resonated strongly with attendees. Jordan Selous E19 highlighted the vast opportunities available in the arts and humanities, showcasing her journey with a BA in English Literary Studies, Media & Writing, and Linguistics. Zahra Parker E19, currently studying medicine at UCT, emphasized the significance of perseverance and continuous learning in the medical field and highlighted embodying the spirit of giving back as an Alumnae Committee Member. Thameena Dhansay E18, a multimedia specialist and climate justice advocate, shared insights into the impactful realm of media production and emphasized its role in shaping societal narratives and promoting sustainability.

As an extension of the expo, RGHS is organizing a series of "Ask-an-Alumna" sessions, focusing on various career paths and gap year options. We extend an invitation to alumnae who are interested in hosting these informative sessions by [signing up here](#).



E16 Lily van Rensburg and Emma Bowers Swart shine as 2024 Mandela Rhodes Scholars

Two Rustenburg alumnae, Lily van Rensburg and Emma Bowers Swart from the Class of 2016, have been chosen as Mandela Rhodes Scholars for 2024. The Mandela Rhodes Foundation offers young African leaders a prestigious Postgraduate Scholarship and a Leadership Development Programme to continue Nelson Mandela's legacy.

Lily, with a background in Film and Media Production and Curatorship, focuses on colonial and apartheid-era art. Emma, a passionate advocate for education and leadership, has showcases dedication to community service and academic excellence. Their selection reflects exceptional leadership, exemplifying Rustenburg's legacy of producing outstanding leaders. Congratulations to Lily and Emma for their achievements!



Lily van Rensburg E16



Emma Bowers Swart E16

Knit or crochet for Mandela Day

Join us in our endeavour to knit/crochet blankets for 67 Blankets for Nelson Mandela Day! See the instructions below. Knit/Crochet a family blanket or a friendship blanket. Please send your squares to RGHS.

Meet the new ambassadors for 67 Blankets for Nelson Mandela Day: Sophia van Eeden (E1) and Uyathandwa Bandla (C3).



E17 Jasmine Minter Returns to Rustenburg Girls' High!

Rustenburg Girls' High School recently welcomed back alumna Jasmine Minter E17 as a guest judge at their talent show. Jasmine, who began her journey at Rustenburg and later excelled at the Luitingh Alexander Musical Theatre Academy (LAMTA), has achieved national and international acclaim for her performances. Known for starring roles in productions like "Come Together" and earning praise for her comedic talent in "Cosi," Jasmine's versatility shines.

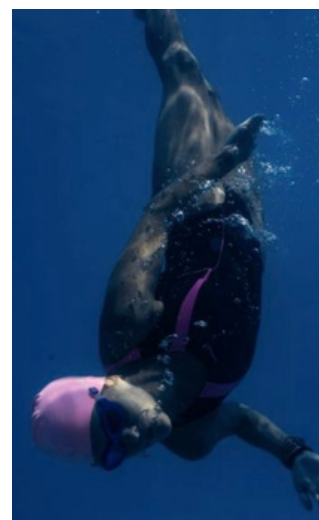
Beyond the stage, Jasmine has contributed to dance crews like Rudi Smit's Basic Black crew and Zoe Aldridge's Genesis Co. and shares her expertise as an accent and dialect coach. Her journey exemplifies passion, perseverance and dedication. Let's celebrate Jasmine Minter's remarkable journey as she continues to shine in the performing arts world.



Amber Fillary E89 Breaks Three Guinness World Records

Amber Fillary, South Africa's ice swimming record holder and Rustenburg Girls alumna, made headlines once again by breaking three Guinness World Records in Norway. She astonished spectators by swimming incredible distances under the ice in a single breath, surpassing her previous records. Fillary's achievements not only solidified her status as a sports' icon but also served as a beacon of inspiration.

She expressed her elation and emphasized that her dedication is to raise awareness about mental health issues and inspire others to overcome challenges. Fillary's remarkable journey exemplifies the power of perseverance and determination, inspiring us all to push boundaries and achieve greatness. Well done Amber!



Spotlight on Alumnae

Samantha Kilian: Leading with Passion, Creativity, and Purpose

Samantha Kilian's journey as an E03 alumna to being Managing Director of G&G Digital is inspirational. With over 15 years of experience in advertising and communications, Samantha exemplifies resilience, innovation, and unwavering determination.

At G&G Digital, Samantha's leadership is marked by a relentless pursuit of excellence and a deep commitment to her team's growth. By fostering a culture of collaboration and empowerment, she has propelled her company to unprecedented success while staying grounded in her values.

Despite the demands of her career, Samantha prioritizes work-life balance, cherishing moments with her loved ones and nurturing her passions outside of work. Her holistic approach to success serves as a reminder that true fulfillment encompasses both personal and professional achievements.

Samantha's journey is a testament to the power of resilience and vision. From her beginnings in Fashion Design to her leadership in digital marketing, she embraces challenges as opportunities for growth and learning.

Her story inspires us to embrace excellence in all aspects of life, to dream big, work hard, and stay true to our purpose. As Samantha says, "Success is not a destination but a journey—a journey fueled by passion, guided by purpose, and illuminated by belief in our own potential."

Additionally, Samantha has recently joined us as a mentor and alumnae speaker, eagerly engaging with RGHS learners later this year. Her commitment to giving back and inspiring the next generation further exemplifies her remarkable leadership and dedication to making a positive impact in her community.



Anne Gadd (Bradburn) E74: Mastering Art, Law, and Leadership



Anne Gadd, Head of Marketing & Business Development at Giambrone & Partners' London office, seamlessly blends legal expertise with artistic brilliance.

With over 25 years of experience, she spearheads successful marketing initiatives while gaining recognition as one of South Africa's top 50 female artists in 2020.

Anne's journey inspires resilience and determination which is highlighted by her recent appointment to the London Chamber of Commerce's City of London division committee. Her exceptional achievements, from groundbreaking contributions in law to profound impacts on the art scene, showcase how dedication and passion can lead to success in diverse fields.

Gilly Tebbutt (Whitfield) E71 inducted into the SA Golfing Hall of Fame in 2020



Gilly Tebbutt, a legend in South African women's golf, has been honoured with induction into the SA Golfing Hall of Fame.

She has 27 Western Province Championship titles and nine South African Championships. She has represented Western Province for four decades, her career exemplifies excellence and perseverance.

Gilly won the Hong Kong Amateur Title for three consecutive years and achieved her 40th Club Championship title in retirement highlighting her unwavering dedication.

Her legacy inspires aspiring golfers worldwide, showcasing the power of resilience and commitment in pursuing dreams. Congratulations to Gilly Tebbutt on this well-deserved recognition of her extraordinary contributions to the sport.

From Classroom to Globe: The Inspiring Journey of Judith Stuart-Watson (Gordon) E65



Judith Stuart-Watson, a Rustenburg Girls' High School alumna, embarked on a multifaceted journey marked by teaching, writing, and exploration. Starting with a B.A. in English and History, she ascended to Head of English at Rustenburg and later became Headmistress of Clarendon Girls' High School.

Alongside her educational career, she engaged in diverse roles such as serving on educational councils and briefly working for the Department of Foreign Affairs. However, her true passion lies in writing, where she authored school textbooks and ventured into travel writing which combined captivating narratives with her photography. Her globetrotting adventures, from Iceland to South America, reflect her insatiable curiosity and appreciation for diverse cultures. Through her endeavors, Judith inspires others to pursue their passions wholeheartedly.

RGJS: Creative Arts Conference

Rustenburg Girls' Junior School, in partnership with the Western Cape Education Department, hosted the third virtual Creative Arts Conference on Friday and Saturday, 1st & 2nd of March 2024. The staffroom was transformed into a studio and adjoining offices into breakaway studios for the guest speakers and panellists.

The two-day virtual event is South Africa's largest conference on Creative Arts Education. The conference included global keynote speakers, interactive workshops, chatrooms, exhibitions, and more! Throughout the conference, educators were enriched with new and exciting skills to enhance their teaching of the Creative Arts in their learning spaces.

RGJS Alumnae Catherine Pike (née Jacobs) and RGHS Alumna Pam Heiberg (née McCabe) E87, both RGJS staff members, were involved in the conference. Catherine is the HOD of ICT at RGJS and was the tech wizard behind the conference! If you are an educator and would like to learn and benefit from the many panel discussions and workshops, please access the content on the [RGJS YouTube channel](#)



Upcoming Events

Ask-an-alumna online mentorship sessions

We are running a series of online “Ask-an-alumna” sessions throughout the second quarter starting from (March to June) exclusive for learners to attend and connect with alumnae.

If you want to host a 45-minute session with interested learners on specific topics, life hacks, career development or just be a supportive “go-to” inspirational person please complete [this form](#).

EXPLORING CAREERS IN LAW AND ACADEMIA WITH E11 SAPNA MESTHRIE



On 13 March, Sapna, a lecturer at UCT, shared her expertise with RGHS learners, hosting an "Ask an Alumna" session on Exploring Careers in Law and Academia. With distinctions in BA History & Psychology and LLB magna cum laude, her LLM in Public Law focuses on social justice. These sessions offer 45 minutes of insightful discussions, life hacks, and career development advice for interested learners. Sapna's dedication to mentoring and empowering young women is commendable, making her a supportive and inspirational figure in their journey. Thank you, Sapna, for your invaluable contribution to the development of future leaders.

BUILDING A CAREER IN ACCOUNTING, AUDITING AND BUSINESS WITH DR.TUMEKA

8

April



16:00 - 16:45

Dr. Tumeka Matshoba-Ramuedzisi is a Chartered Accountant (SA) and Registered Auditor with extensive experience in auditing, business, and academia. With over 19 years of professional expertise and a diverse educational background, including a Doctor of Philosophy in Leadership, Dr. Matshoba-Ramuedzisi brings a wealth of knowledge and insights to the discussion.



Get yourself a Rustybug Dog Bandana

We have limited edition dog bandanas available at R150.00

Email us (kotua@rghs.org.za) to place an order.

Upcoming School Talks: Alumnae Mentorship Series

The Alumnae Mentorship Talks represent an invaluable opportunity for our current learners to engage in enriching dialogues with accomplished graduates of our school. These talks, scheduled to take place throughout the year, aim to inspire, motivate, and broaden the perspectives of our young learners across various facets of life, including business, career development, personal growth, and more.

Each session will feature a distinguished alumnae who will deliver a talk designed to resonate with and empower our learners. We are delighted to announce the lineup of speakers who will grace our campus in the upcoming months:

- 29 April 2024: Nina Schiff (E06)
- 05 August 2024: Caitlyn Benjamin (E22)
- 12 August 2024: Farheen Mahmood (E15)
- 16 August 2024: Tumeka Matshoba (E98)
- 19 August 2024: Suaad Jappie (E03) and Samantha Kilian E03
- 26 August 2024: Nelisa Ngqulana (E99) and Zandile Matshaya (E00)

Upcoming Reunions:



CELEBRATING MEMORIES 130 YEARS 1894-2024 SHAPING FUTURES

SAVE THE DATE

E94 REUNION - LONDON!

20 DAY **04** MONTH **24** YEAR

E94'S BASED IN LONDON CAN JOIN US FOR A BOTTOMLESS BRUNCH.

1 LOMBARD STREET RESTUARANT
3PM-5PM
LONDON



Join the UK WhatsApp group to RSVP your attendance



CELEBRATING MEMORIES 130 YEARS 1894-2024 SHAPING FUTURES

SAVE THE DATE

E94 REUNION - CAPE TOWN

12 DAY **10** MONTH **24** YEAR

E94'S BASED IN CAPE TOWN OR SOUTH AFRICA ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR OUR UPCOMING 30TH REUNION!

VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED SOON.



Join the SA WhatsApp group to RSVP your attendance

We're thrilled to announce that the E94s are hosting multiple reunions in various locations throughout the year to accommodate everyone. Whether you're in the UK or South Africa, there's a gathering for you!

UK Alumnae join the WhatsApp group dedicated to your reunion by following [this link](#).

Connect with your fellow alumnae from South Africa by joining the [SA WhatsApp group](#) to join the Cape Town event.

0-5 REUNION (E19-E23)

12

April



Join us for the upcoming 0-5 Reunion Mixer.
Complete this form to RSVP for your attendance and to
help us tailor the event to your availability. See you soon.

E04 (20TH REUNION)

7

September



Join the E04 whatsapp group to be part
of the reunion.

E84 (40TH REUNION)

14

September

Join us for lunch at Charlie's Hope and a day filled with fun.
To stay updated with your upcoming reunion activities you can
contact **Cathy Baker (nee Booth) at cathyb969@gmail.com**

E64 (60TH REUNION)

Date
pending

To stay updated with your upcoming reunion activities you
can contact **Sandy Le Fevre at keir@lefevre.co.za**

E74 (50TH REUNION)

Date
pending

To stay updated with your upcoming reunion activities you
can contact **Ruth Romburg (nee Canning) at**
ruth@aviate.co.za



Follow us on social media

We want to keep in touch, add your details [Alumnet](#) yet?

Find us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). You can also join our new [Linkedin](#) page.

We would appreciate any news of alumnae, updates and interesting stories, please send them to
Asonle Kotu - kotua@rghs.org.za for inclusion in future newsletters.