

40 years

SAHETI ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



A rich heritage, a proud history, a bright future

December 2013 - ISSUE 3



Harry Karpathakis

From the Desk of the Chairman

THE SAHETI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

As the year draws to a close and we prepare for the holiday season and associated festivities, we are pleased to welcome the new recruits from the Matric Class of 2013.

The graduating matrics were formally welcomed into the SAHETI Alumni community at the Matric Valedictory Dinner held on 28 November 2013. We wish them well as they commence with this new and exciting chapter in their lives, and look forward to observing their success stories in the not too distant future.

In 2014 we look forward to working with you to further develop and enrich our alumni programs. Our priority will remain to create new ways for our Alumni to connect – both with each other and with SAHETI. Stay connected!

On behalf of the SAHETI Alumni community I would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to Kyria Soula for her dedication and commitment to our school. We wish her health and peace as she sets sail on a new adventure.

To the SAHETI Alumni family, thank you for your commitment, loyalty and love for SAHETI. I wish you and your family a blessed festive season. May 2014 be a prosperous year for you.

Yours sincerely,

Garry Etappous

Chairman, The SAHETI Alumni Association

Contact Details

The Saheti Alumni Office:

Switchboard: 0861 SAHETI
Tel: 011 479 3794
Email: alumni@saheti.co.za
Website: www.saheti.co.za
<http://www.facebook.com/SahetiSchoolAlumni>



News from the School

40 YEARS



TO MY BELOVED ΣΑΗΤΙ ALUMNI

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE HEAD, ANASTASIA KRYSTALLIDIS

This is my 39th year at SAHETI School. I do not need to tell you about my journey because we travelled together.

I will always remember each one of you, the lessons in class, our fights, our laughs, our debates, and our tears, the school productions that made this journey so beautiful, valuable, precious and unforgettable. It is very important to know what kind of Alumni SAHETI has produced. I am proud of SAHETI's Alumni. We did not produce directionless masses of indifferent, confused citizens but children who became adults, who came out into the world with confidence, a sense of purpose, a respect for learning and who have learnt how to live with each other.

As this is my final year at SAHETI I would like to leave you with something I have learnt. I consider Hellenes all of who have partaken of SAHETI's education. The purpose of 'Know Thyself' is to find and accept your identity, your roots and your cultural heritage. In order to keep a Greek,

Italian, Dutch, Bulgarian, Zulu, etc. and a South African identity, you have to go along two different paths. One is sacred, one is secular, one is religious, one is ethnic and they overlap. Your culture is sacred. Culture is not just a set of behaviour patterns, but something infinitely more complex and multifaceted. It is the impact of our past culture on our present and future destiny.

Remember: There are a handful of cultures that transcend time and geography and ours is one of them. Some of the elements of the Hellenic culture are togetherness in multiplicity. Striving for excellence. The quest for beauty and truth in science and art. Wherever we go, we are seen as people who are promoting something that is part of everyone's philosophy, an integral part of everyone's political life. When we speak about our heritage, we speak of something that is timeless, that is universal, and that is part and parcel of the life of everyone who lives on earth.

Dear SAHETI Alumni, accept the responsibility in propagating something that is important to all of humanity.

Appreciate, honour, embrace the school that made you citizens – 'πολίτες' of the world.

With love, *Kyria Soula*



On Monday, 18 November 2013 Greece's Deputy Foreign Minister Kyriakos Gerontopoulos was welcomed with a superb Greek dance and musical presentation performed by SAHETI learners.

Mr. Gerontopoulos was welcomed by Advocate George Bizos, members of the SAHETI board, Executive Head - Anastasia Krystallidis and teaching staff. Adv. Bizos expressed his gratitude to Mr. Gerontopoulos for their longstanding support of the school's efforts to preserve

the teachings of Hellenism through provision of the Greek educator secondment programme; and encouraged their support for SAHETI's Greek E-learning programme currently under development.

The Deputy Minister, who is responsible for Hellenes of the diaspora, was accompanied by Mr Panagiotis Mihalos (Secretary General for International Economic Relations and Development) and Mr. Michael Christides (Director General for International Economic Affairs). The visit which included a presentation on 'SAHETI's 2020 strategy' was concluded with a tour of the school and a final stop at the newly constructed Pouroulion and Maria Katrakis Archive buildings.

Mr. Gerontopoulos thanked Adv. Bizos and the teachers for their ongoing contribution to Hellenism in South Africa, and presented him with a gift representing the Athenian coin depicting the symbol of wisdom, the owl.



News from the School

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MATRIC 2013 PRIZEGIVING

Prior to setting off to write their matric examination, the Class of 2013 attended their final assembly and prizegiving. This event is an event bursting with mixed emotion as top achievers are presented with a number of academic, cultural and sporting awards in their respective subjects.

Over the years, a number of SAHETI Alumni have generously donated trophies which are now awarded on this special day, and this year have been awarded to the following matrics:

AWARD	Top achiever
Dux scholar	Matthew McGurk
Andrew Butow Trophy for Academic Excellence	
Alexia Piperidis Modern Greek Trophy	Markos Vidalis
Joannides Family English Trophy	Ana-Sofia Bizos
Dimitri Yiotopoulos Afrikaans Trophy	Shanaaz Buys
John Palmos AP Mathematics Trophy	Matthew McGurk
Yotta Zachariou Mathematics Trophy	Matthew McGurk
David Branco Physical Science Trophy	Matthew McGurk
J.P. Coelho Business Studies Trophy	Alexi Stephanou
Angeliki Vidalis Geography Trophy	Ana Popovic
Chrysis Sofianos History Trophy	Aleco Kastanos
Dino Theodorou Information Technology Trophy	Alexi Stephanou
Angela Akakios Life Sciences Trophy	Ana-Sofia Bizos
Christina & Nicholas Eleftheriades Trophy for academic full colours in Grade 10,11 and 12	Matthew McGurk Ari Anastassiou Ana-Sofia Bizos
Crabbia Family Trophy for commitment and dedication to sport	Costa Callipolitis
Sofianos Family Trophy to a learner of Greek origin with out-standing results in Modern Greek & promotion of the Hellenic ethos	Ana-Sofia Bizos
Leah & Rachel Branco Trophy for outstanding results in Modern Greek to a learner of non-Greek origin	Matthew McGurk
Karina Paxinos Long Service Trophy	Costa Callipolitis

The following trophies were not awarded in 2013: Michaela Juby Mathematical Literacy Trophy, Nicole Stephanou IsiZulu Trophy, Kiki Spyropoulos Accounting Trophy and Visual Arts Class of 2004 Trophy.



Costa Callipolitis and Ivor Crabbia (1995).

Farewell to the Class of 2013:

Julia Anastasiou, Ari Anastassiou, Perry Balambanos, Melissa Bennett, Angelo Bertolis, Ana-Sofia Bizos, Joanna Botes, Monica Brachini, Shanaaz Buys, Costa Callipolitis, Leenan Chetty, Eleni Christodoulou, George Constantinou, Luka Cremisini, Wendy Dai, Samantha Dos Santos, Christina Edginton, Courtney Edinberry, Katerina Elia, Eleni Farrell, Michael Flerianos, George Georgiades, Andreas Georgiou, Byron Georgopoulos, Micaela Haralambous, Jason Hofmann, Emmanuel Kalenga, Aleco Kastanos, Christina Koutroukides, Lia Lentzakis, Maria Maimonis, Wandile Matshinye, Matthew McGurk, Thabang Mnguni, Devin Lee-Roy Mohamed, Bongwiwe Monareng, Lesedi Mthakathi, Clare Ndlovu, Mario Neofitou, Chrystyna Nicolaides, Katia Oberzhitsky, Caitlin Palm, Ana Popovic, Savva Pouroullis, Tijana Sakota, Omphile Senyarelo, Keisha Sokanyile, Sophia Sotiropoulos, Alexi Stephanou, Markos Vidalis, Lawrence Wu, Pari Xenophontos, Michael Xypteras, Manoli Yiannoulakis, Gabriella Zachos.



The prize giving is officially closed by the matrics who on exiting the school hall, take turns in ringing the matric bell - a symbolic farewell gesture which in recent years has become a popular tradition. The matric bell was donated by Head Prefect Jordan Joannides and Natasha Yiannoulis, Class of 2004.



SAHETI NETWORKS WITH BUSINESS LEADERS OVER A GAME OF CRICKET



Johan Barnard – Freelance photographer

Some of Johannesburg's top business leaders have thrown their weight behind the revival of cricket in the inner-city as part of the upliftment of the poor communities in the area. Advocate George Bizos and 702 Talk Show Host, John Robbie have been the driving force behind putting this event together.

This follows the hosting of the inaugural Joburg Cricket Club's corporate benefit match on Friday 15 November 2013 in the Bertrams area of the inner-city. The club is part of efforts by business leaders to revive both cricket and the inner-city which they hope will result in business people returning to the inner-city.

Among these top business leaders who came out to play a game of gentle cricket were Mike Brown (CEO Nedbank group), Geoff Whyte (CEO Nandos), Zunaïd Bulbulia (CEO MTN SA) Kuben Pillay (CEO Primedia), Imtiaz Patel (CEO Multichoice), Sam Hackner (Global CEO Investec property), Willem Roos (CEO Outsurance), and Paul Harris (founder of Firstrand).

The 20-over per side game, which included the participation of SAHETI vice chairman Nick Kokkoris, is being used as a platform to demonstrate the role the corporate sector can play in promoting the development of Johannesburg, cultural diversity through sport as well as the upliftment of underprivileged communities.

"SAHETI has over the last 18 months established a special relationship with the Joburg Cricket Club and share the strategic vision to support and transform the inner city into the sporting capital of Johannesburg," explained SAHETI's Director of Sports, Grant Jansen.

Jansen adds, "Apart from cricket development activities, the club has together with SAHETI participated in the Corfu Spirit of Cricket Youth Tournament in Greece for the past two years, claiming the 2013 title earlier this year. The youngsters' participation in this international event was thanks to the support and close ties of iconic Advocate George Bizos with Greece."

Following the benefit match business leaders swapped seats to enjoy a match played by learners of SAHETI, King Edward School and with learners who attend school in the inner-city.

A wonderful opportunity to profile SAHETI, our learners and sports offering.





SAHETI Alumni Connect

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Liz Sidiropoulos (1985), Father Petros (1982), Paulette Comninou (1988), Executive Head Kyria Soula, Keynote speaker Harry Sidiropoulos (1991), Michael Yiallouris (1992), and SAHETI Alumni chairman Gary Ttappous (1981)

Matric Valedictory Dinner 2013

The Valedictory Dinner is an event recently added to the SAHETI Alumni calendar. This event which symbolises the "Matric rite of passage" serves as the induction of graduating matrics into the SAHETI Alumni Community. This was our second consecutive year and every year it continues to enhance our reputation as a school and fraternity that these graduates want to belong to and get involved with.

It has become customary to invite SAHETI Alumni to deliver a talk which reinforces the responsibility alumni have in ensuring the longevity of this great school. This year we were fortunate to have all three Yiallouris siblings attend this special occasion as honoured guests.

Paulette Comninou (Yiallouris, 1988), Michael Yiallouris (1992) and Symeon Yiallouris (1990) are passionate about SAHETI and continue to be part of the SAHETI family as parents of the school and as alumni. Their message to the class of 2013 was "As you are about to enter one of the most exciting periods of professional growth in your lifetime remember this, 'Tonight does not mark the end of your relationship with your school – it marks the end of one relationship and the beginning of another, your relationship with SAHETI as alumni. Remember it is the lifelong friendships and relationships together with the deeply rooted tradition and culture at SAHETI that you should preserve. The alumni can only work if you, the alumni, are involved. As members of the SAHETI Alumni community get involved, reach out and stay connected with us."



Anita Pouroulis Wins Best World Children's Book Award

Congratulations to Anita Pouroulis (Patricios, 1986) on this commendable achievement. The following article appeared in the international press. Content and image acknowledged and reproduced with the permission of Digital Leaf Publishing, UK.

London, November 2013 – South African author Anita Pouroulis has won one of children's publishing's top awards. The former primary school teacher from Bedfordview in Johannesburg won the Best World Children's Book Award at the China Children's Book Fair in Shanghai on Saturday 9 November 2013 for her picture book 'Oh, What A Tangle!' 'Oh, What A Tangle!' was released in the UK in 2012 and was voted onto the 'Family Favourites' list by the readers of 'The Guardian's' children's book site. 'Elegantly written,' they said. 'Wonderfully funny,' said the popular books blog, The Bookbag. It was released in South Africa earlier this year. The book tells the story of Kiki, a young girl who is too busy having a good time to brush her hair. Unbrushed and unloved, it soon becomes one big barnet that is full of surprises! It's a nightmare for her Mum, but this is no bad hair day for Kiki. She loves it when a family of birds moves in!

The delightfully dreamy illustrations are by Monika Filipina Trzpil in her debut. 'Oh, What A Tangle!' was published by Digital Leaf, a small independent press in London in 2011 by former admen Neil Jeffries and Dustin Brooks. Managing director Neil Jeffries said he was 'hugely grateful to Anita and Monika for giving us such a gorgeous book to work with.'

'We were in Shanghai with some of the world's biggest publishers. These days there are many challenges facing small presses and it was a great thrill to show the rest of the world what we've achieved,' he said.

'Oh, What A Tangle!' is available to order from all book stores and online.

'Oh, What A Tangle!' has also been developed as an animated interactive app available from the iTunes App Store and the Google Play store.



SAHETI Alumni Connect

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The pupil who recently became the TEACHER.

SAHETI - a unique school that does not only provide its learners with formal access to schooling but develops all their learners to gain an enriched knowledge that ultimately enables them to become significant citizens in society, and thus stands true to its motto 'Know Thyself'.

I have been part of the SAHETI family since the age of four, and when I hear the word SAHETI, for me it symbolizes my second home. A diverse school which provided and continues to provide me with a sense of belonging, as it is 'SAHETI' who helped me understand who I am.

When I reflect back on my schooling I recall countless lessons learnt, which evidently include subject knowledge. However, it is the core life skills that I was exposed to that have remained with me today. The most important lessons I learnt besides Mathematics, is that I can pursue any course that I desire. I was confident that SAHETI teachers had

taught me the necessary skills and content I needed, my fellow SAHETIANS had taught me how to be selfless yet strong at the same time, and SAHETI as a whole taught me how to be a confident South African Greek who with determination and ambition would succeed in anything I undertook.

I have had a passion for teaching since I can remember. I always wanted to teach as teaching meant making a difference in a learner's life. Teaching is the most rewarding profession and the part that learners often forget is that we as teachers learn from our pupils, and as much as we have the power to make a difference, learners have a power to touch our lives. Being a teacher means being a lifelong learner.

I am privileged to be living my passion and I owe part of this to SAHETI. In pursuit of excellence through the Educator Bursary Fund, I was awarded a bursary toward my teaching qualification and I am now back home, teaching my passion, Mathematics. In 2013 I was appointed as a Mathematics High School teacher.

I hope that I can inspire learners to become hungry for knowledge and ultimately for learners to believe in their own self-worth. By teaching at a school like SAHETI it makes my goal possible. I leave you with the words of Mr Schuester (from TV series Glee): "The Best teachers don't give the answers they just point the way and let you make your own choices, your own mistakes. That way you will get all the glory and you deserve it."

Miss E. Zachariou

(SAHETI Mathematics Teacher and Alumnus, class of 2008)

THE SAHETI ALUMNI DATABASE

This year our focus has been the SAHETI Alumni database and the results have been outstanding.

To the Alumni who have assisted us with this process, thank you for dedication and commitment.

Please continue to encourage all past pupils to make contact with the SAHETI Alumni office as our correspondence is mostly via email and sms.

Simply send an email to alumni@saheti.co.za and notify us of your most up to date contact details; and contact details of any other Alumni you may have.