



ΣΑΗΕΤΙ ALUMNI CONNECT

ΣΑΗΕΤΙ Alumni Association Newsletter

Term 2 - 2014



FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAIRMAN

THE ΣΑΗΕΤΙ ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Fellow Alumni,

This has certainly been a busy term.

I am delighted to report that the Σαheti Alumni Association hosted its first official function on the evening of Thursday, 18 July. No less than 90 Alumni, representing a broad range of Alumni years – from 1981 to 2013, attended the glittering event. Hosted by SAHETI's Executive Headmaster, Warwick Taylor, the evening was not only the first of its kind for SAHETI, but was also extremely informative and exciting. The guest speaker was Mr Peter Economides, internationally recognised marketing guru, and brand ambassador for Greece, who flew from Greece to attend the event. His famed presentation was truly inspiring and touched on issues such as successful branding and how any professional, business or commercial enterprise can overcome most adversity – through free thinking and purpose.

"The evening was not only the first of its kind for SAHETI, but was also extremely informative and exciting."

On Sunday, 20 July, SAHETI hosted its annual prize giving which honours all those of Hellenic origin or descent who have graduated the previous year. The talent, breadth and scope of academic involvement and achievement is breathtaking – with Hellenes achieving in almost every sphere of academic activity, whether at matric, graduate, post-graduate, masters or doctorate level.

When one looks back a mere two years, when the Alumnus Association was only a hope, I am pleased to say that today, as SAHETI Alumni, we have a thriving and

purpose-driven Association which is set to grow and develop from strength to strength.

I invite Alumni to put themselves forward for membership of the Alumni Association Committee whose work is to further drive and build the Association, together with relevant Alumni programmes. I ask that you support the Association in whatever way you wish to, whether through the provision of ideas and information, such as contact details of SAHETI Alumni, or through communication with the Alumni Office (details are on the SAHETI Alumni Facebook page as well as in this newsletter). It is encouraging that the social media platforms are being touched by Alumni and that Alumni are interacting with the Alumni office in increasing numbers.

I wish you all a restful break during the August holidays and look forward to further working with you towards the development of the Alumni Association during the next term.

Best regards,

Gary Stappos

Chairman - The Σαheti 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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SahetiSchoolAlumni

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/sahetischoolalumni



News from the School

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE APPOINTMENT OF SAHETI's 2015 LEADERS



Left to right: Iacovos Ioannides, Andreas Hadjipaschalis, Mthandazo Mthembu, Kyriakos Ioulilianou, Daniela Akakios, Nicholas Ferretti, Nicolas Gonatas, Anna Chrysostomou, Elia Roussos, Nicholas Kastanos, Glenna Silaluke

The announcement of the prefect body takes place at the School's Annual Founders Day celebration, a special occasion where we reflect on the foresight, dedication and achievements of the founders of our great school.

They are: Nicolas Gonatas (Head Boy), Eleni Pouroullis (Head Girl), Elia Roussos (Deputy Head Boy), Kelly-Michelle Bosman-Jansen (Deputy Head Girl), Daniela Akakios, Christos Charalampopoulos, Anna Chrysostomou, Nicholas Ferretti, Andreas Hadjipaschalis, Iacovos Ioannides, Kyriakos Ioulilianou, Nicholas Kastanos, Mthandazo Mthembu, Tejal Pillay and Glenna Silaluke.

For some, this year's prefect body is special in more ways than one, as the children of SAHETI Alumni and past pupils have started to climb the ranks of leadership:

- Elia Roussos, son of George Roussos, Class of 1985 and
- Nicholas Ferretti, son of Maxine (Anastassiou) Ferretti, Class of 1982.

Congratulations to the new prefect body; we wish them a successful term of office.



Left to right: Elia Roussos (Deputy Head Boy), Kelly-Michelle Bosman-Jansen (Deputy Head Girl), Eleni Pouroullis (Head Girl), Nicolas Gonatas (Head Boy)



Christos Charalampopoulos



Tejal Pillay



SAHETI Alumni Connect



Paulette Comninos (1987), Anthea Sotiropoulos (1986), Aiki Ttappous (1983), Tonia Yiannoulakis (Head of the Alumni Office)



Left to right: Vicky Crease (1989), Peter Economides, Maira (1991) and John Koutsoudakis (1990)



Left to right: Peter Economides, Gary Ttappous (1981), Aki Anastasiou (1986), Vanessa Kerdachi (1984), Warwick Taylor



Left to right: Marko Vidalis (2013), Ageliki Vidalis (2010), Peter Economides, Tanya Sigamoney (2010)



Left to right: Andrew Coudounaris (1992), Peter Economides, Spyros Tyrans (1992)



Left to right: Dion Karagiannis (1986), Peter Economides

SAHETI ALUMNI EMBRACE A NEW ERA OF EXCELLENCE

On Thursday, 17 July 2014 the SAHETI Alumni Office hosted a cocktail evening which marked the inaugural event of the SAHETI Alumni Association. With its central theme "A new era of excellence", this special event in true SAHETI style also welcomed SAHETI's executive headmaster, Warwick Taylor.

Hosted in the magnificent Pouroulion Building which also houses the SAHETI Alumni Archives, guests were entertained by the vibrant performance provided by the school's talented bouzouki players. The highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the guest speaker appearance of zealous Hellene, Peter Economides. Peter, who travelled all the way from Athens especially for this event, delivered a fascinating talk about creating a narrative of your life. Having delivered similar presentations in the USA, Australia and other parts of the world, this was a first of its kind in South Africa.

Master of ceremonies Aki Anastasiou (1986) welcomed Peter, a world renowned brand strategist who has been doing work that has impacted brands and consumers almost everywhere. His journey through the world of advertising and marketing started in native South Africa and took him via Hong Kong, Greece and Mexico to New York, and back to Athens. Peter has worked and learned from some of the best: John Dooner, Michael Sennott and Marcio Moreira at McCann; Jeff Weiss and Lee Daley at Amster Yard; Sergio Zyman and David Wheldon at Coca-Cola; Bill Tragos, Uli Wiesendanger, Adam Morgan, John Hunt and Lee Clow at TBWA; Steve Jobs at Apple; and Horst Sambo, the man who created and executed the incredible Red Bull campaign.

Peter drew comparisons to his role in the re-launch of a bankrupt Apple back in 1997. "I met Steve Jobs for four hours and came away with two comments: 'Let's make a dent on the universe and good enough is not enough'." The result was the iconic Think Different campaign, which created a narrative that has helped Apple now become the world's most valuable company.

'Greek is the new cool', he said. 'We are full of stories, the world needs our stories. We need a narrative. We need a SAHETI narrative. Think Iconic. Think Epic. Think New Era of Excellence. Weave every story of your urban fabric to create a narrative, that narrative that provides the glue that holds nations together.'

Peter urged SAHETI Alumni to dedicate themselves to safeguarding our heritage and the survival of memory – the survival of the SAHETI memory and to carry this treasure of resilient Hellenic spirit for generations to follow.

Thank you to all the Alumni who supported and to those who were involved in making this event exceptional. To the Archive Committee for the SAHETI Alumni display, Mrs Martha Cavaleros and Dr Mary Reynolds (archivist). A special thank you to the SAHETI Alumni Organising Committee – Paulette (Yiallouris) Comninos 1987, Ria (Georgiou) Mouskides 1983, Anthea (Christelis) Sotiropoulos 1986 and Aiki (Elia) Ttappous 1983. To Salamander Design Concepts, John and Melissa Generalis, for their generous sponsorship toward this memorable event.



SAHETI Alumni Connect



CULTURAL AND MUSICAL SPECTACULAR IN CONCERTO WITH POLYKANDRIOTIS

On Friday, 19 June 2014 a filled to capacity Linder Auditorium applauded SAHETI and its pupils who undertook an ambitious initiative to perform alongside international award winning bouzouki virtuoso and composer Thanasis Polykandriotis.

Over 200 pupils performed in this highly anticipated concert which was organised under the auspices of the Embassy of Greece in Pretoria and featured the school's bouzouki band, choirs and marimba bands. SAHETI's bouzouki teacher Mr Babi Papas, dedicated months preparing SAHETI's young musicians for this musical spectacular and performed together with the Johannesburg Festival Orchestra and Polykandriotis on bouzouki.

A distinctive feature was the performance by the very talented SAHETI Alumni Band. The band, which was formed under the guidance of Vaso Valassis (former SAHETI music teacher), is comprised of the following past pupils: Pano Nicolaides (2004) on drums, Joanne Valassis (2001) and Desi Nicolopoulos (2002) on violin; Alexi Stephanou (2013) on guitar, Marko Vidalis (2013) on bouzouki, supported by vocalists Katerina Krystallidis (2000), Nicole Stephanou (2011) and Nico Thomaides (2012).

The contribution by the SAHETI Alumni band and their participation in the life of the school reinforces that there is enormous goodwill in the SAHETI Alumni Community, which should be fostered and grown to ensure that SAHETI sustains itself as a school that not only produces academically exceptional graduates, but artists who can perform and share the international stage with world class performers.

Congratulations to everyone who contributed to this unforgettable performance, and especially to both Tonia Papazoglou (Principal: Greek Studies) and Diana Cowen (H.O.D. Music, Cultural Activities Primary School) who turned what was a dream into reality.



Left to right: Nicole Stephanou, Joanne Valassis, Desi Nicolopoulos, Polykandriotis, Katerina Krystallidis, Nico Thomaides and Vaso Valassis

“The contribution by the SAHETI Alumni band and their participation in the life of the school reinforces that there is enormous goodwill in the SAHETI Alumni Community.”



Left to right: Alexi Stephanou, Polykandriotis and Pano Nicolaides (absent: Marko Vidalis)



SAHETI Alumni Connect

SAHETI ALUMNI ASSIST LEARNERS MAKE AN INVESTMENT IN THEIR FUTURE



Vanessa Kerdachi with the future fashion designers



Left to right: Team LA Law. Maurice Crespi, Daniella Brocco and Gary Tappous



Aki Anastasiou with the future journalists



Nicole Economou with the future psychologists



Left to right: Tina Georgoulakis, Aki Anastasiou, Vanessa Kerdachi, Maurice Crespi and Daniella Brocco

With over 30 exhibitors filling up the George Bizos Hall, SAHETI proudly hosted the 2014 Career Expo to Grade 11 and 12 learners. Guest speaker Professor Kobus Maree from the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Pretoria delivered the keynote address, highlighting key factors for success in tertiary study and employability. The programme, which included talks covering a broad spectrum of careers and professions, was well supported by SAHETI Alumni who turned out to guide learners on skills required to make them marketable in line with changing employment trends.

The past pupils, who represented an astonishing 25% of the speakers and generously gave of their time to support this worthy cause are: Aki Anastasiou (1986) on Journalism, Tina (Papajeannides) Georgoulakis (1987) on Human Resource Management, Vanessa (Beylis) Kerdachi (1984) on Haute Couture, Nicole (Economou) Tymbios (1994) on Educational Psychology, Daniella Brocco (2005), Maurice Crespi (1990) and Gary Tappous (1981) on Law.

Thank you for your support – without you this day would not have been possible. The challenge for the next career expo is to double the Alumni representation. Your insight and mentorship is invaluable.

IT'S ROCK AND ROLL TIME

GREASE TAKES TO THE STAGE TWO DECADES ON



In June this year, the school staged the popular musical Grease and all five performances were a complete sell-out within the first few days. Not surprising, considering the 1990 production was a resounding success. Directed by Michael Gladwin, and choreographed by former head girl and SAHETI Alumna Simone (Economou) Kyriakides, months of strenuous rehearsals came to fruition, and this energetic and dynamic performance enthralled and entertained audiences.

The very talented high school cast was paid a surprise visit by two of the 1990 cast members viz. John-Paul Katsikides, who played the role of Danny Zuko, and Maria Gerondoudis, who played the role of Marty. Nicolas Gonatas was particularly eager to meet his counterpart and quick to ask him for advice on his role as Danny. Eleni Lazanakis was excited to meet and share experiences with Marty.

A number of past pupils were involved in the production in one way or another, and among them was Pano Nicolaides (2004). Despite having matriculated 10 years ago, Pano continues to show his love and support for his school. He contributes beyond expectation as he generously volunteers his expertise and time to the school band.

"It was an unbelievable experience to be part of the 2014 Grease production. I have performed on SAHETI's stage since the age of 5, and 25 years on I had the privilege of being on the creative team. The dedication and maturity of the school cast is commendable. I am so proud of them and SAHETI." Simon (Economides) Kyriakides.

"As we entered the George Bizos hall to watch the SAHETI 2014 production of Grease, I was taken back a couple of decades. It felt like not so long ago where we once ran around backstage preparing for the show. What an awesome experience and congratulations to the cast on their great performance. Bravo SAHETI for yet another fantastic production and thank you for the wonderful trip down memory lane." John-Paul Katsikides and family.

Well done to the cast, musicians and production team under the leadership of Mrs Senekal (Director of Culturals) on this exceptional production. Thank you to the SAHETI Alumni for your support.



Left to right: Eleni Lazanakis with Maria Gerondoudis



Left to right: John-Paul Katsikides with Nicolas Gonatas



John-Paul Katsikides and his family



SAHETI OLD GIRLS APPOINTED TO SAHETI STAFF



**NEKTARIA (KOKKALIS)
STIVASTIS, 2003**

I am one of the fortunate few individuals that spent my entire schooling career at SAHETI. I entered SAHETI as a 3 year old little girl in Grade 000 and left SAHETI as a proud matriculant in 2003. The years in between were what made me who I am today. My

years at SAHETI were some of the most memorable, where I met people with whom I have become lifelong friends.

Academically, SAHETI prepared me well for my studies at the University of the Witwatersrand and in 2008 I graduated with a degree in Speech and Hearing Therapy. I went on to complete my Masters in Speech Language from City University of London. And what an enjoyable and challenging year it was. The rigorous academic demands were counter balanced by the fact that I had the opportunity to spend the year sharing accommodation with three SAHETI Alumni (all matriculated in different years) and who are my closest friends – testament that Sahetians share a common bond despite their geographical location.

I returned to South Africa in 2011 and partnered with a Speech Language practice in Bedfordview, while also working with children at other schools in the Bedfordview area.

In 2014, I returned to this great school as Speech and Language Therapist for grade 000 to grade 7 – an ambition deeply embedded in my heart to one day return to the school that had given me so much. Now it was my turn to give back to a special place I had grown to love.

I now walk the hallways with my head held high and with immense pride in my heart, knowing that this is the place that shaped me into the individual I am today.

I look forward to spending many more years giving back to the school.

DESI NICOLOPOULOS (2002)



My career began at SAHETI at the tender age of 3 in the nursery school, and I spent all my school years here, matriculating in 2002. With this strong foundation, I was excited at the prospect of attending the University of the Witwatersrand where I would have access to diverse experiences in a broad, diverse environment – something that SAHETI had prepared me very well for.

After completing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech and Hearing Therapy as well as an Honours in General Psychology, I went on to complete community service in Alexandra and Diepsloot – an enriching experience where I was able to assist the less privileged. What struck me most was the sense of community that exists, and although I could not identify with the everyday struggles they experienced, I could clearly identify with the sense of community which I hold so dear.

My love for teaching led me to complete a TESOL course that opened the doors to travel to a European country and teach English to second language learners. My destination - Northern Italy. Although the language was initially an obstacle, I was able to connect with the warmth, values, sense of community and the love of food that the Italian people exude. I felt very proud to be of Greek-South African heritage and whilst I travelled the Italian countryside, my love for my country always echoed enthusiasm.

On returning to South Africa in December 2010 I took up my first post at Bellavista School. After 3 enriching years, in May 2014 I was delighted to take up a position at SAHETI school as Speech and Language Therapist for reading intervention, comprehension skills and language skills support for English second language learners.

At first I thought the feeling would be somewhat surreal – to be back at the place I had spent 15 of the most formative years of my life. In fact, I felt right at home; hearing the children sing the same Greek songs I had once learnt as a child, filled me with a sense of pride and nostalgia. An immediate sense of familiarity, comfort and warmth.

I look forward to experiencing many more happy and enriching years at SAHETI.



SAHETI Alumni Connect

RESEARCH FROM THE SAHETI ALUMNI OFFICE WITS NAMES SAHETI A TOP FEEDER SCHOOL



SAHETI's enhanced reputation as a leading private school was recognised by the University of Witwatersrand. This is a great achievement for our school considering that the University was ranked as amongst the top 115 universities in the world. For more details <http://businesstech.co.za/news/general/62915/south-africa-university-rankings/>

Top tertiary institutions are tracking our Alumni. We too have made it a priority to track the success stories of our Alumni. Since 2011, the SAHETI Alumni Office has produced research to gain insight into what the SAHETI graduates are doing post matric. The scope of the research undertakes to gather findings in two domains:

1. Graduates' preferred field of study and do graduates gain acceptance to their career of choice?
2. At which institutions our graduates prefer to study and do graduates successfully gain access thereto?

The class of 2013 fared well with 91% (2012 - 87%) of the graduates gaining access to their preferred field of study. The disciplines of Law, Engineering, Psychology, Accountancy & Business and Actuarial Science remain the most sought after fields amongst the SAHETI learners and most prefer to complete their studies at one of the following tertiary institutions: University of Witwatersrand, University of Johannesburg, University of Pretoria, Stellenbosch University and University of Cape Town.

The research in 2014 was extended to include the percentage of graduates who received a financial award for academic excellence. Of the total group of matriculants, 43% of them were awarded a scholarship or academic award; and one graduate was the recipient of the WITS Vice Chancellor Scholarship.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2013:

Julia Anastasiou; Ari Anastassiou; Perry Balambanos; Melissa Bennett; Angelo Bertolis; Ana Sofia Bizo; 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; Alexandros Kastanos; Christina Koutroukides; Lia Lentzakis; Maria Maimonis; Wandile Matshinye; Matthew McGurk; Thabang Mnguni; Devin Mohamed; Bongiwe Monareng; Lesedi Mothakathi; Clare Ndlovu; Mario Neofitou; Chrystyna Nicolaides; Ekaterina Oberzhitsky; Caitlin Catherine Palm; Ana Popovic; Savva Pouroullis; Tijana Sakota; Omphile Senyarelo; Keisha Sokanyile; Sophia Sotiropoulos; Alexi Stephanou; Marko Vidalis; Lawrence Wu; Pari Xenophontos; Michael Xypteras; Manoli Yiannoulakis; Gabriella Zachos.

CLASS OF 2004 10 YEAR REUNION

The 10 year reunion for the class of 2004 is definitely happening this year! The date is yet to be finalised but will take place on one of the following days - October 11, 18 or 25. This is a chance to catch up with friends and classmates who you may have lost touch with, to see friends you haven't seen in a while and to celebrate like we used to. Details to follow in the next month, so please be patient. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Bianca Prinsloo on biancaprinsloopd@gmail.com. I hope most of you will be able to make it! Would love to see everyone again and reconnect.

Bianca Prinsloo, class of 2004, reunion organiser

STAY CONNECTED

We are keen to keep in touch with as many Alumni as possible. Our correspondence is mainly via email so please ensure that we have your correct details on the SAHETI Alumni database. Simply send an email to alumni@saheti.co.za and notify us of your most up to date contact details.

Please keep in touch and let us know of important announcements such as marriages or births, accomplishments, such as achievements or adventures and any other interesting details. Wherever possible, email photographs or press releases to alumni@saheti.co.za.

