

HILTON COLLEGE



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FOREWORD FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear friends and future benefactors,

In a world of dramatic wealth disparity, how do you encourage an already generous group of people to give more? In a world of need, how is your cause more worthy than another?

I reach out to you not as a fundraiser, but as an educator committed to our cause; that of leading our great school.

Integral to our success is growing Hilton's endowment fund. If successful, this could be a game changer.

Every Hiltonian well knows our splendid setting on 1,600 hectares of spectacular real estate in the Midlands. But beyond our community, this is not what we are known for. Unfortunately, we're known as "South Africa's most expensive school". What if we were known for the fact that 50% of our scholars are subsidised. Or for our generosity?

Hilton was established on land that was donated and the school is housed in buildings that were paid for by benefactors. Fees cover the school's operational costs only while scholarships and bursaries are paid for by donors. All of this profoundly impacts the school's culture and is a testament to our community's unwavering commitment to inclusivity.

But we are developing the invocation of former principal Raymond Slater (1967-1980) who said Hilton builds the character of boys, giving them humility and imagination. I would add to Slater's famous quote that Hilton inspires generosity. Because, we understand that with privilege comes responsibility. "To whom much has been given, much will be required."

I have been at Hilton for eight years. Before arriving here my career took me to a variety of schools, including schools in poor, rural areas. Hilton is one of about 26,000 schools in South Africa, of which approximately 1,000 are independent.

These statistics underscore an obvious reality – most parents will do whatever they can to give their children the best education they can. Wealth is relative.

In a country assailed by service delivery challenges, whatever means you have can insulate your pursuit of a normal life against the backdrop of bizarre abnormalities.

This underscores issues of exclusivity. In this situation, we can become prisoners of privilege or heavily invest in what we know we do well. Education doesn't have to be a shiny, exclusive thing.

It is an honour for me to be part of this great enterprise born of passion and merit. This doesn't put me on a pedestal, it behooves me to protect and entrench this legacy. As a beacon of education, our responsibilities extend far beyond our beautiful campus. The harsh realities faced by many in South Africa make the privilege of education even more profound.

Hilton is about building future leaders, virtuous men of intelligence and integrity. Men who are independent thinkers and nation builders. These men are part of the bulwark against tyranny in a world increasingly threatened by ignorance and division. Our commitment to these ideals is unwavering, yet we face a reality that demands more than just ideals. To continue our mission, we aim to significantly grow our endowment, ensuring that financial constraints do not deny talented young men the opportunity to join our ranks.

Centres of excellence like Hilton shouldn't only be accessible to people who have money nor should they prejudice exceptional talents who lack funds. Education is integral to the development of democracy. It fosters good values and critical thinking. Education must perfect the art of simultaneously instilling values and beliefs that may be considered absolute, whilst encouraging a questioning, curious and challenging mindset.





We have to cultivate an atmosphere that shapes useful viewpoints that improve our navigation of the complexities of our modern world.

Our challenge is to help Hiltonians "pay it forward". The school already harnesses the generosity of amazingly generous people, incredible humans who happen to have money. I am the son of an Anglican priest and a teacher, both of whom were raised in post-war frugality. My interaction with donors has been inspiring. Generosity of spirit is what transforms communities and helps them thrive. This generosity may be in time, in service and in wealth.

Hilton aims to increase its relatively modest endowment from R70 million to R500 million. Others more qualified than I will elaborate in this publication on the various aspects of Hilton's giving campaign, our projects, and our goals. But, in brief, the return on a fund of R500 million would allow Hilton to give 140 boys a year a 50% fee subsidy in perpetuity.

We are mindful of the fundraising challenge. In a country beset by poverty, asking for money is not easy. In a sea of need, everyone who has is being asked to give. The gulf between the affluent and the needy yawns ever wider and your generosity has already cultivated hope and facilitated change. We already have extraordinary buy-in from our community. You are heavily invested and engaged. Our challenge is to foster that by being the best stewards we can be, to forever pay this forward so Hilton College's legacy will always be one of generosity, sustainability and development rather than entitlement.

Investing in Hilton is not just about sustaining an institution; it's about fostering a sanctuary where future leaders are nurtured, and where education transcends the acquisition of knowledge to become a force for good in a fractured world.

The generosity of our community has been the lifeblood of Hilton. Thank you for considering this journey with us. Together, we will ensure that Hilton remains a lighthouse of learning and integrity for generations to come.

George Harris

Hilton College Headmaster

WHY HILTON NEEDS US

Dear Hiltonians and members of the Hilton family,

Endowment has always been an interesting and challenging topic at Hilton. In many respects, we are a victim of our own success. We are the best secondary school in the world, with an illustrious history of over 150 years. We have produced men of exceptional character who have made their mark globally.

When you drive through the gates at Hilton, what strikes you most is the size and scale of the school. It oozes abundance. Our alumni include captains of industry. The picture projected is one of wealth and prosperity.

For those in the know, this is ironic, considering Hilton was established and very much remains a farm school, especially given how firmly grounded its staff are. Nevertheless, we are often tagged as elitist, which stymies our fundraising efforts. Looking at the school and its product, you would fairly ask: why would this school ever need money?

What most people don't realise is that Hilton is assetrich yet cash-poor. Providing the level of excellence that we offer comes at an enormous cost. Hilton is a non-profit company with three sources of income: school fees, which cover 90% of operational costs (everything from salaries to rates, lights and water); a small farm on the grounds, which brings in one percent of our income; and the other nine percent comes from donations.

People unversed in the business of running schools don't realise what hungry enterprises they are.

They need lots of fuel in the tank to keep running.

We have scrutinised the financial challenges facing Hilton, and they all lead back to endowment. The Hilton College Endowment Foundation dates back to the 1950s, when a few donors put together a fund that, in today's money, is pretty much the same as what we were given 70 years ago.



We need to grow that endowment fund by several hundred million rand to preserve and extend the Hilton ethos and to allow future generations of Hilton boys to experience the same opportunities which we have all enjoyed during our time at the college.

Old boys are key custodians of this ethos. Some families have five or six generations of men who help keep the spirit of Hilton alive. Not all of them can afford to send their sons to Hilton, and we need these boys. We don't want to become vulnerable to who has the biggest chequebook. The endowment will help us handpick most of the intake for each year and cushion parents from increases. It will also allow us to bring in, through subsidies, promising young men from outside the family, as it were.

Every year, we perform miracles from a small pot that we allocate scrupulously to attract boys who share our ethos, not simply people with a sense of entitlement because they are moneyed.

We must use every opportunity to grow the endowment fund by talking to the right people and encouraging old boys to give regularly. It requires hard work and dedicated focus. We must do this for Hilton to remain relevant, compete meaningfully and retain the right calibre of boys.



Andrew Johnston (1983, McKenzie) Chairman Board of Governors





A GUIDE TO THE FOUR FUNDS

Since its establishment in 1958, the Hilton College Endowment Foundation functioned as a general-purpose fund. In 2020, we diversified by launching four distinct funds that address the varied interests of our stakeholders.

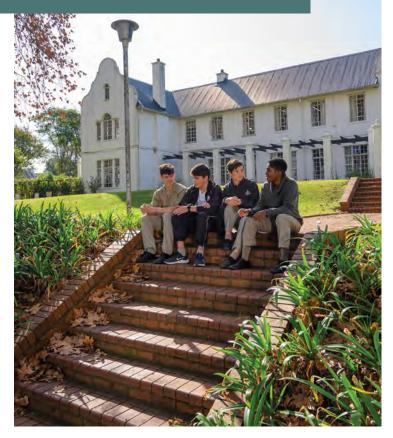
Some people prefer to support a human-capital-focused endowment, others a building-infrastructure endowment, while others may have a preference for environmental or social causes. Of course, Hilton will gratefully accept endowments that don't specifically fit any of these categories.

We also publish the names of those who have contributed substantially to Hilton College on the Roll of Benefactors. Admission to this group is subject to certain criteria and the discretion of the chairman of the board of governors of the Hiltonian Society NPC.

There are a number of ways you can contribute to Hilton's endowment, from regular or once-off donations to bequests in your will.

All contributions to the four funds are managed by the Hilton College Endowment Foundation – a trust managed by seven trustees, four of whom are independent of the Hilton College Board of Governors. The portfolio is conservatively invested in terms of its equity exposure and has about 67% of total funds invested in offshore assets including randhedge shares.

Subject to certain legislative conditions, any financial contribution to the Hilton College Endowment Foundation qualifies for a section 18A tax certificate under the South African Income Tax Act. Similar tax benefits exist in other jurisdictions, such as the UK and USA.







THE FOUR FUNDS



Lift Up Your Hearts Fund

This fund provides financial assistance to boys from families who don't have the means to send their sons to Hilton College, including the sons of Old Hiltonians.



Pinnacles Fund

This fund is to facilitate the ongoing maintenance of the Hilton College campus and fund new infrastructure projects.



uMngeni Fund

The purpose of this fund is to provide funding for environmental and conservation projects linked to the Hilton College Estate.



Vula Fund

The purpose of this fund is to provide funding for Vula, our flagship community partnerships project, and for projects undertaken by our community partners – iThemba Projects, Thembelihle School, Angel's Care and Love Howick.

FAST FACTS

78

Sons of Old Hiltonians at Hilton College in 2024

R4.5m

The total value of assistance to sons of Old Hiltonians in 2025

6,800

Old Hiltonians on our database 87

Sons of Old Hiltonians enrolled for 2025

456

The number of applicants for 118 places in 2025 vs 176 applicants for 110 places in 2014

88

The number of Old Hiltonians who are monthly donors (less than 2% of old boys are monthly givers)

DONATIONS FROM BENEFACTORS SINCE 2022

R20m

R35m

>R1m

R10m

to the Lift Up Your Hearts Fund (mostly from 5 donors) to the Pinnacles Fund for the Chamberlain Music Centre and the new Draper-Gain Centre for Performance and Wellness (mostly from 6 donors) to the uMngeni Fund for the estate and conservation to the Vula Fund for Vula Lodge II (mostly from 3 donors)



WHERE OUR NEW BOYS COME FROM

	2024	2025
KZN	35%	43%
Gauteng	44%	41%
Rest of SA	13%	11%
Out of SA	8%	5%

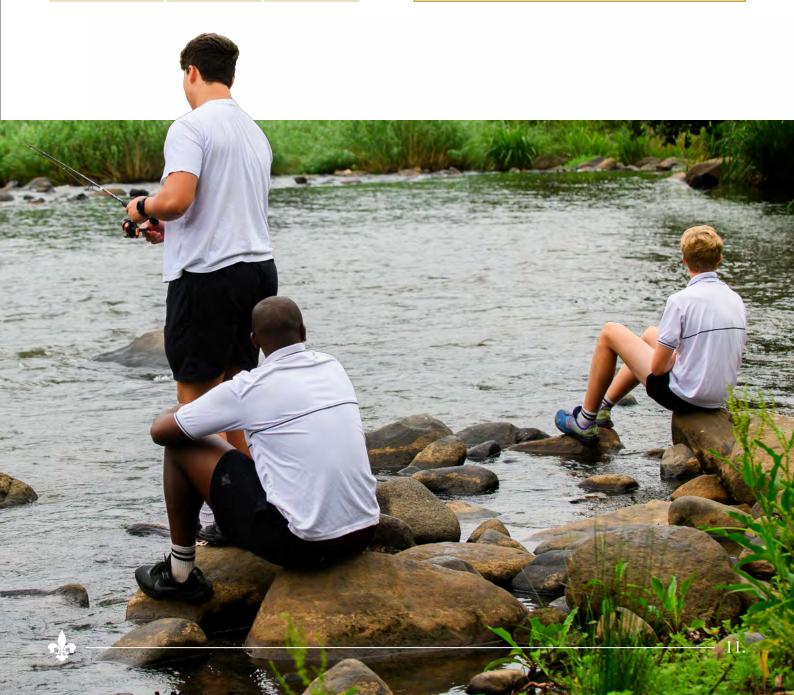


SCAN, CLICK OR TAP THE QR CODE

to contribute to the **Lift Up Your Hearts Fund**,

to financially assist boys, including sons of Old Hiltonians, whose families don't have the means to afford Hilton.





BENEFICIARY PROFILES

LUNGI NGIDI

2014, Newnham

There were no baby steps for the richly talented Lungi Ngidi as he bounded from the playing fields of Hilton College to the international stage.

The tall, imposing Ngidi quickly became one of the world's premier fast bowlers, making his T20 debut as a 20-year-old and then his Test debut a year later.

Ngidi's endeavours have been remarkable considering that, in his own words, he has "a very humble background".

His parents worked at Kloof Primary School, Bongi as a domestic worker and Jerome in maintenance. It was their son's sporting talent that secured his future and won him scholarships first to Highbury and then Hilton College.

Signed by the Titans on leaving Hilton, Ngidi was man-of-the-match on his T20 debut against Sri Lanka in 2017.

A year later, on Test debut, he picked up the award again, taking six for 39 in India's second innings as the Proteas won the series.

The cricket world sat up and Ngidi has continued to be a regular mainstay of the Proteas team, representing them well over 100 times across the three formats.



Hilton College was the top boys' sports school in SA in 2022 and 2023
*As rated by SA School Sports

"Ngidi's career has been crammed with awards and accolades, and, all the while, those closest to him have admired both his ability and humility."

His first national captain, Faf du Plessis, said, "It is obvious that Lungi is a very special, humble human being." Ngidi himself pays tribute to Hilton College for forming and shaping the exceptional cricketer and person he has become.

"I would never have been able to do what I've done were it not for the amazing opportunities I received at Hilton College. It's a great honour for me to have attended Hilton College and I'm very grateful that they saw value in me. Thanks to them, I was able to meet lots of people from different walks of life, which has meant a lot to me.

"In terms of my cricket, the school gave me lots of opportunities and I was fortunate to have someone like Shane Gaffney, who really helped me to believe in my ability, and amazing coaches like Neil Johnson, who helped kickstart my career because he knew what it took to play international cricket," Ngidi says.





BENEFICIARY PROFILES

CONNOR HOLDSWORTH

Cell(C)

2020, Ellis



here."

Humble, jovial and big-hearted, Connor came to Hilton on a bursary and is now studying for his honours in supply chain management at Stellenbosch University.

if I'm lucky enough to have a son, I'd like to send him

He says Hilton College's values set him up for life: "The high standard of academics, the sport, the dorm environment, the relationships with teachers; without

realising it, the values are being instilled. At Hilton, you behave a certain way – 'as true as steel' – and you become passionate about it," he says.

Connor appreciates the privilege of a Hilton College education and encourages his younger brother, Rex (Grade 9, Ellis), to seize the extraordinary opportunities presented to him in his time at the school.

"My advice to Rex has been to try everything. There's a lot you can do here; a lot to enjoy. Hilton College has world-class facilities, coaches and teachers, and an estate unlike any other. I think he may have already found the thing he loves – the nature reserve."

Some of Connor's most cherished memories of Hilton are playing rugby. "I played hooker for the first XV and enjoyed it so much."





"I enjoyed helping the younger guys. You want to come back and see guys doing well and if you played even a small role in that, it's gratifying."

He recalls the positive impact of his seniors and how this influenced him as a senior: "I still look up to the guys who were my matrics, and I remember the banter with them; if you had banter with an older guy, you felt lekker afterwards. The small things impacted us in a big way."

"In my time at Hilton, the school did away with the prefect system, and I came to understand that even in the absence of prefects, there is always someone looking up to you."

Connor and his dorm mates were "super tight" and he says that if he is in a position to help one of them give their sons a Hilton College education, he would do it in a heartbeat.



BENEFICIARY PROFILES

NATHAN JULIUS

2016, Falcon

Nathan Julius is a sopranist and opera singer with a master's in music performance from the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis in Basel, Switzerland. The Schola is one of the world's top conservatories in early music.

Orphaned in his early teens and raised by his grandmother, Cape Town-born Julius began his career at Hilton College in Grade 10 following three years at the Drakensberg Boys Choir School.

Julius, who came to Hilton on a 95% scholarship, says if it wasn't for Jaco Dippenaar, who was his voice teacher at Hilton College, he wouldn't be where he is today.

"When considering what I was going to do after school, I told Mr Dippenaar I wanted to audition at the Royal College of Music in Oxford, so he arranged for me to do a choral course at Eton College."

Dippenaar later contacted the Schola and secured an audition and plane ticket for Julius. Then came fundraising efforts. "He got me to Basel. Everything was orchestrated by him. It's very special," he says.

Dippenaar says conductors who have worked with Julius say he is one of the most gifted young singers of his time.

"His time at Hilton College was marked by his exceptional singing ability, both as a choir member and soloist with three of our wellknown orchestras."







In 2016 he featured as a soloist with South African conductor Richard Cock and the Chanticleer Singers in Handel's Messiah and then with the KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra in a performance of an aria from Haydn's Creation. In 2017 he performed as alto soloist with the Baroque 2,000 Orchestra in a performance of Bach's St John Passion in Durban.

Julius says a highlight in his singing career was sharing the stage with Juilliard graduate and opera singer Laetitia Grimaldi Spitzer and piano virtuoso Ammiel Bushakevitz in 2016.

He is currently working towards his second master's degree from the Zurich University of Arts in Zurich.



DONOR PROFILES

HUGH SNYDER

1953, McKenzie

Having matriculated from Hilton College in 1953, Hugh Snyder studied mining geology at the University of the Witwatersrand. At both institutions he excelled in a range of sporting codes. Highlights were captaining Wits University 1st XV and representing both South African Universities and Transvaal at rugby in 1958.

Snyder has had a lifetime involvement in the resource industry. For 10 years he worked as an exploration geologist, first in Zimbabwe and subsequently in Namibia. Since then, based in Canada, after attending the Harvard Business School, his sphere of operations has included North America, Latin America and Spain. Between 1974 and 2013 he served as a CEO and/or chairman of a number of Canadian-based mineral exploration and development companies and was instrumental in the incorporation and listing on the Toronto Stock Exchange of six such companies.

what he describes as the "Nicaragua adventure". After the fall of the Sandinista regime in 1990, he was involved in reprivatising gold mining assets nationalised by the Sandinistas. During this period he supported a scholarship programme for young children living in the poorer districts of Managua.

Snyder reflects that a highlight of his career was

Inspired by this experience in a desperately poor country, Snyder became involved in initiatives at Hilton. Active first with the Hilton College Foundation of Canada, which supported two boys through Hilton, he has now focused his benefaction on the Vula programme.

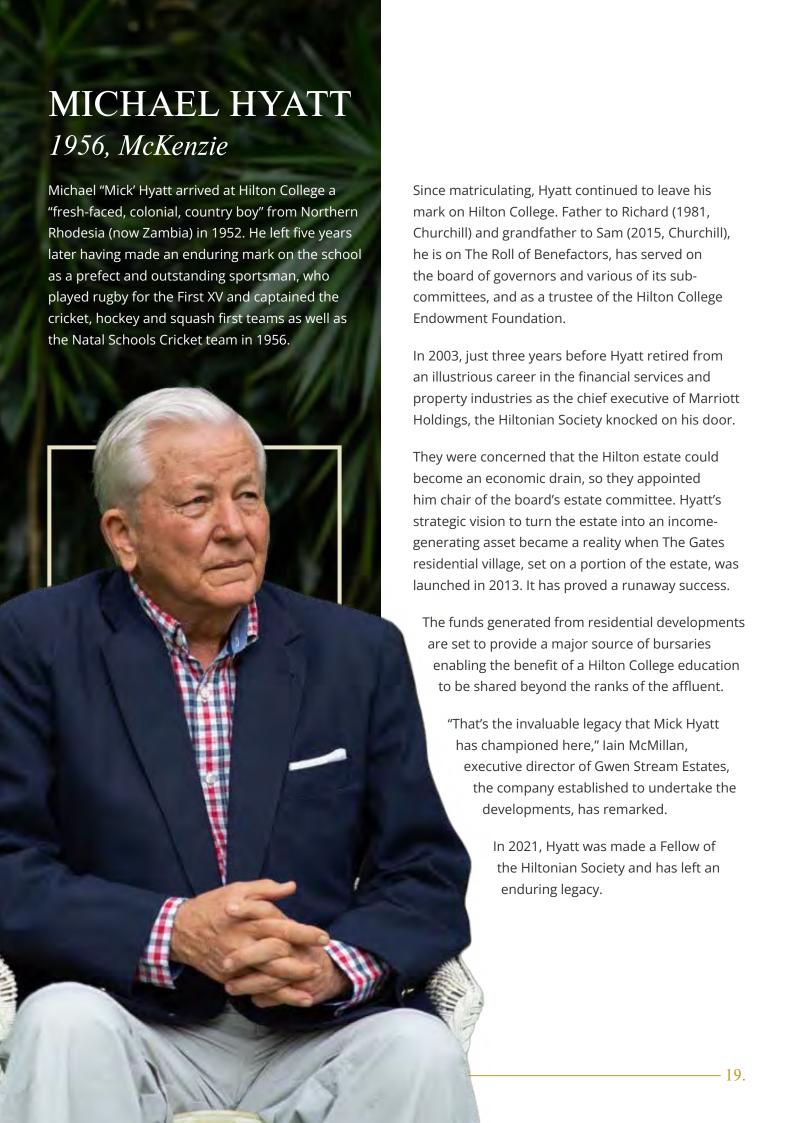
"Vula has inspired me. It is doing something to improve the educational system where it matters most, upgrading teacher quality."

Now in his eighties, Snyder remains an intellectual explorer with eclectic interests. He continues to follow the progress of mineral exploration companies, maintaining an active interest in the Faculty of Earth Sciences at the University of Toronto, where he has established a scholarship for PhD students from Hispanic countries. Extraordinarily well-read, his interests include sport, food, baroque choral and other classical music, and the work of early 20th Century Spanish poets. Spanish and golf lessons remain part of his regular routine.

Guided by a Costa Rican ornithologist, Snyder has visited Costa Rica five times in the past few years to view the varied bird life there. Most memorable sightings include the Resplendent Quetzal in the Central Cloud Forest and the Ferruginous Pygmy Owl in the Dry Forest of the Pacific Northwest. According to Snyder, this latent interest was sparked by Benjy Rawdon (1953, McKenzie) at Hilton who guided Snyder on bird-watching expeditions into the uMngeni valley and beyond.









SANDILE ZUNGU

1984, Newnham

Sandile Zungu was once the beneficiary of a bursary to Hilton College and is now a significant benefactor himself.

In 2019, the businessman and owner of AmaZulu Football Club gifted to our school the Zungu Soccer Pavilion and field to invest in our infrastructure and in a sporting code that attracts large numbers of boys hoping to come to Hilton College.

"I see Old Hiltonians dipping into their pockets to create a legacy for the benefit of the community. I'm the beneficiary of that benevolence and I'm in a position to give. I believe that if we can, then we must," he says.

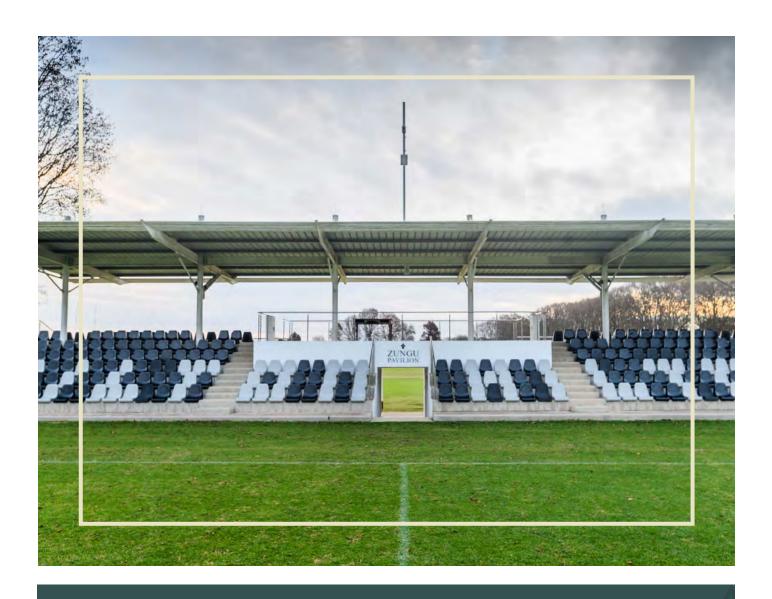
Zungu's early life was defined by extreme contrast that kindled consciousness and care. It shaped the outlook of a man synonymous with big business and the drive for meaningful black economic empowerment.

Raised in Umlazi, he graduated from Vukuzakhe High School in 1983 and went on to complete post-matric at Hilton College thanks to a scholarship. "I moved from real underprivilege to an environment that was very kind, generous and plentiful. It sharpened my consciousness about inequality, but at the same time Hilton was a very welcoming environment and provided the opportunity to reshape my prospects."

He proceeded to send all three of his sons, Mfundo, Lwazi and Vuyo, to his alma mater, a feat Zungu marvels at considering it happened in one generation.







Zungu studied a mechanical engineering degree, a Master's in Business Administration and attended Harvard Business School before a meteoric career that now sees him heading an investments company and sitting on a host of boards. His leadership has been recognised by the World Economic Forum and he is former president of South Africa's Black Business Council, a body advocating for more ambitious economic empowerment targets.

Zungu's transition from Vukuzakhe to Hilton, though stark, was a joy.

"My year at Hilton was jam-packed and absolutely wonderful."

He relished Hilton's leafy campus and nature reserve and credits the school for being ahead of its time in raising environmental awareness.

Hilton also taught the value of caring for people less privileged. "I am a living example. I was catapulted onto the trajectory I am on because of a bursary from Shell and Hilton...they provided tools and an environment to learn."

Zungu salutes this "deliberate consciousness". When one of his sons returned from Hilton, a friend remarked on what a gentleman he was. "There will always be exceptions, but the Hilton system inculcates gratitude and the idea that you have a responsibility to more than yourself."



DONOR PROFILES

ANDREW DUNN

1989, Newnham

As a newcomer to Hilton College, Andrew Dunn was struck by the enormous presence and charisma of Rory Dyer (1987 post matric, Churchill) who towered over the school as head boy and captain of the 1st XV. "I just wanted to be like him," he recalls.

Dunn took up rugby and ran fast but, never having played before and being pint-sized, found himself in the under 14D team. He credits his teachers for not allowing early disappointments to get in the way of perseverance. "Mr Steve Ferguson always showed belief in me and cajoled me on," he says, and later Andy van der Watt, a former Springbok wing, assured him that "nothing beats speed". Eventually in his matric year he was selected to play in one of Hilton's greatest ever 1st XVs, alongside two future Springboks, Hentie Martens (1990 post matric, Churchill) and Wayne Fyvie (1990, Churchill).

After school, Dunn went to the University of Cape Town and did a BCom. During holidays he worked in a business that reconditioned trucks and developed an interest in transport. At 23 he founded Miltrans, a logistics and supply chain enterprise which he later sold to SuperGroup.

In 2006, after starting, buying and selling several other businesses and leading a management buyout of Premier Foods, Dunn established DNI with Anton Newbury (his prefect during his first year in Newnham). "We realised that every store needing bread also needed SIM cards," he remembers. DNI is now a leading distributor of SIM cards, handsets and airtime, and provides a range of technology services to the ICT sector. Shareholders in his businesses include fellow Old Hiltonians the Gain brothers, Peter (1993 post matric, Ellis) and Doug (1995 post matric, Ellis).



"Dunn has become one of the school's most generous benefactors."

Dunn visits Hilton regularly and has become one of the school's most generous benefactors.

"I'm still blown away by the privilege of the Hilton experience and what it taught me about people from different walks of life. Youngsters learn discipline, tolerance and teamwork – and I am honoured and privileged to be able to give others that opportunity."



GERALD FOX

1980, McKenzie

Gerald Fox was a bright, plucky young man who soared academically at Hilton College and went on to study at Oxford and Harvard where he was a John Harvard Scholar before a spectacular career in British television, film and the arts.

In fact, Fox has won just about every documentary film award in the arts genre – including a BAFTA, Grierson, Royal Television Society Award, Prix Italia, Chicago Gold Bear, and the Golden Prague Award – and is a Governor of the British Film Institute, the lead body for film and television in the UK.

His films have been screened at major festivals, including TriBeCa, Rotterdam and London, and museums like The Met. He has also created several series for broadcast in the UK, US and SA.

In 2012, he was recognised in SA for his charitable work and received the Inyathelo Award for International Philanthropy. His family foundation built 500 houses and 40 schools in Khayelitsha after Fox saw a nursery school burn to the ground while filming in Cape Town.

In 2023, Fox generously set up a scholarship at Hilton
College, namely the Gerald
Fox Arts Scholarship, to
provide a Hilton College
education to creatively
gifted boys without the
means.

He credits his time at Hilton for developing key values. "The ethos of service, of giving back and not taking your privilege for granted was instilled in me at Hilton College. I have always wanted to continue my grandfather and father's efforts to give back financially to those less privileged than ourselves."

There was a spirituality about the school that influenced Fox and he shone in class and on stage. Encouraged by English teacher Ant Lovell he excelled at debating and essay writing and won a clutch of awards, including a memorable trophy presented by Alan Paton.

His cherished memories at Hilton are of adventures tubing down the Umgeni River rapids, wandering the fields taking photographs and on stage doing irreverent skits of apartheid politicians in the Jan Hofmeyr Speaking Competition.

Fox harnessed his education and channeled his enthusiasm for storytelling through a career that has seen him travel the world and document the stories of greats such as directors Richard Attenborough and Clint Eastwood, writers John Updike and Amos Oz, artist Gerhard



Richter and photographer

Robert Frank, as well

as making acclaimed

CHAMBERLAIN MUSIC CENTRE

Two state-of-the-art facilities worth R40 million have been undertaken at Hilton College over the past two years, thanks to donations from Old Hiltonians.

It is no exaggeration to say that the Chamberlain Music Centre, completed in November 2022, and the new gym, due to be finished later this year, have, and will, dramatically enhance the school's offering.

The buildings are big, bold, beautiful, and situated across the lawn as though designed to talk to one another.

The symbolic connection between the two facilities emphasises the importance of raising well-rounded boys with a lively interest in culture and sport.

The music centre is a splendid building. It has been completely revamped and more than doubled the size of the old facility. The design opens onto the campus with wall-to-ceiling glass doors and big windows allowing natural light to stream into the building.

The new young musical director, Joshua Boudan, stands beaming with joy there. He and the new facility have radically energised music at Hilton.



This is where more than 200 Hilton boys spend their time, playing in one or more of the 12 ensembles, enjoying one-on-one tuition in an instrument of their choice, or composing music using a digital workstation.

The cutting-edge centre has provided a much-needed performance space in KwaZulu-Natal, attracting musicians from all over the world seeking a top-notch acoustic venue.

The two-storey, 1,340 square metre edifice between the admin block and Gilfillan includes a recital hall, a recording studio, classrooms and a music technology lab.

The 120-seater recital hall is home to a refurbished 86-year-old pipe organ. The Rushworth and Dreaper pipe organ (previously housed in the school's chapel) has been modernised to fit in its new home, and its 668 pipes are digitally activated so that they can be played from anywhere in the world.

Old Hiltonian Stephen Crookes (2007, Ellis) funded the relocation and refurbishment of the pipe organ.

It now takes pride of place in the recital hall, which is dedicated to Margot, the late wife of another music-loving old boy, Dawie Chamberlain (1962, McKenzie). Dawie and his brother Philip (1959, McKenzie) are passionate Old Hiltonians and benefactors.

An avid singer throughout his life, Dawie was in the choir at Hilton and, as a benefactor, has worked with Luke Holder, the school's director of creative and performing arts and, later, Boudan, to ensure the music centre maximises performance opportunities for the school's learners.

Boudan drives this with energetic programmes that connect Hilton with artists worldwide.

Before the centre opened, Hilton College performed three concerts a year. Last year, there were 52.











In 2023, 52 concerts were held in the Chamberlain Music Centre.

A small fortune has been invested in the music centre to ensure the facilities are acoustically treated and digitally connected. A stand-out feature of the building is the Dante networking throughout, connecting all of the rooms in the venue to a recording studio.

Dante, an acronym for Digital Audio Network
Through Ethernet, moves digital audio over hundreds
of feet using fibreoptic cables. This means the studio
can serve as a control centre, recording from any
of the rooms in the music centre in real time. Highspeed internet connection means users of the centre
can also collaborate with artists from around the
world.

Since the centre was built, it has attracted a wealth of talent to the school, including hookups with Grammy award-winning music composer Cedric Samson and one of the world's best trumpeters, Dan Newell, who has worked with Hans Zimmer on the musical score for movies like Gladiator and The Lion King.

"This is a unique space in the music world," says Boudan. "It embodies Hilton's commitment to being deeply traditional yet refreshingly contemporary. The building and its facilities help us to work with world-class talent, but it means nothing if it doesn't advantage the boys and put a song in their hearts. It must enhance kindness and show them the potential of music as a career."

For the subject head of music, Brett Udal, the centre was designed to be a playful space that opens up new opportunities and encourages boys to make music.

Boys come through the centre on their way back from sports practice to listen to or participate in a jam session.

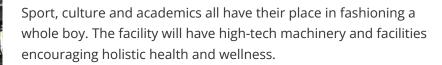
DRAPER-GAIN CENTRE FOR PERFORMANCE & WELLNESS



Towards the end of this year, boys will be able to head from the music centre to the new performance and wellness centre, just across the lawn.

Both facilities are aimed at developing well-rounded boys, says the school's sports scientist Carl Schmidt, who is overseeing the construction of the new centre that combines what was the Crews gym and the rowing gym.

It will be a dream come true for high-performance athletes and a place to teach fundamentals about health and happiness and emphasise the importance of a balanced life.



"There will be state-of-the-art squat racks with force plates and video software, customised weights and machines, rowing machines, spinning bikes, and a 25-metre sled track, all indoor and on a single level. We will have a designated rehabilitation facility and a classroom for video analysis of games."

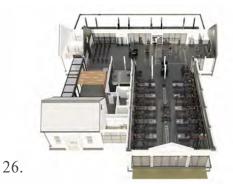


For Schmidt, the facility must be a place that encourages health and wellness among all boys rather than a place for serious athletes only.

"Strength training protects you from injury and keeps you fit, but a gym is also an educational tool to raise awareness about good health, the importance of movement and the virtue of exercise and personal discipline."

The Draper-Gain Centre for Performance and Wellness was funded by, among others, Peter Gain and Anthony Draper, both old boys, and designed and fitted by ESP, owned by Old Hiltonian Vernon Neville (1985, McKenzie).

ESP has designed some of the world's best high-performance facilities, including the UFC Performance Institute in Las Vegas, Manchester City Football Club's new sports complex, Liverpool Football Club's AXA Training Centre, and UCI World Cycling Centre in Switzerland, among others.







OPEN DOORS, OPEN MINDS

When Lloyd Smuts reflects on the past 20 years, he allows himself a quiet smile.

Measuring the real impact of Hilton's Vula programme is nigh impossible.

Lloyd has great insights, but a single truth has primacy. "If we help one teacher from a disadvantaged school, we have made a huge difference to hundreds of children."

Vula, the Zulu word for open, has operated without fanfare for more than two decades and Lloyd, a former headmaster, directs a small team of mostly retired teachers who have had a considerable impact.

Vula has been described as an enterprise with savvy and soul that has harnessed over R25 million in donor funding through an explicitly targeted initiative: helping mathematics and science teachers from poor schools.

Vula has helped tens of thousands of children at government schools through a project that owes its existence to Hilton College and donors, most of them Hilton College old boys.

Initially focused on improving student performance directly, it soon became clear that this was a short-term solution.

The real issue lies in the quality of teaching.

By shifting focus to empower educators, Vula has initiated a cycle of continuous improvement, impacting tens of thousands.

The challenge of teaching mathematics in government schools is enormous. Studies have shown that only 32% of Grade 6 mathematics teachers in South Africa have the required knowledge to teach the subject.

Working closely with the Department of Education, Vula, operating out of Hilton, runs year-round projects that host government teachers and sometimes children from the uMgungundlovu area.

Initially, the teachers travelled in every day, some from as far afield as Winterton, but thanks to donations from the Snyder and Chamberlain families and the Victor Daitz Foundation, the school built two lodges, which accommodate up to 24 teachers who live on campus for a term.

They are catered for, each given a laptop and receive intensive tutoring and educational material.

Vula operates independently of Hilton but out of the school and in close partnership with the headmaster and his staff.

700 maths
teachers and 400
science teachers
from underresourced schools
in KZN have been
upskilled by the
Vula programme,
since 2001.

245 maths
teachers from
our programme
teach maths to
an estimated
40,000 learners at
under-resourced
schools in KZN.

More than 50,000 learners have attended Vula events. Vula has provided training to 200 final-year education students who have been teacher interns at Hilton College.



Vula teachers thrive and soak up the atmosphere, being immersed in the activities of the school, from the debating society to the chapel services to the school plays and sports.

It rekindles their love for education and sees the visiting teachers do assignments and prepare lessons using YouTube, PowerPoint and specialist mathematics software.

An analysis of Vula's impact by education specialist and former UKZN academic Dr Sharon Grussendorff showed that learner performance in mathematics in Vula schools had a "great impact" on achievement in the Grade 12 examinations. If a teacher has regular, unencumbered access to a data projector, the teacher can put into practice the innovative teaching skills and methodologies learnt at Vula, allowing for better conceptual development in mathematics.

A similar study of Vula was done by the Dean of Education at Australia's Notre Dame University. Professor Marguerite Maher was able to track an improvement of between 30%-70% in the marks of pupils of Vula teachers.

Vula is integral to Hilton's commitment to community partnerships.

"We don't do this to counterbalance labels about Hilton," Lloyd says. "We understand real world difficulties in education. Vula extends the culture of collegiality among teachers. Vula teachers are professionals, not second-class citizens. It's their journey. We are helping to open doors to deeper learning along the way."

Vula "graduate" Mpumelelo Gumede from Edendale Technical High School described his experience at Hilton as life-changing, transforming him from a "chalkboard teacher". "What I have learnt here simplifies lessons and makes concepts easier to demonstrate. Hilton College also has a very rich educational culture. I have learnt a lot about how to teach discipline, good manners and respect. It was brilliant."

Vula's Phila Mnyandu (previously a mathematics specialist with the Department of Education) stays in touch with more than 240 Vula graduates, about 80% of whom are still employed by the state. Each of these educators teaches at least 200 students mathematics at any given time.



SCAN, CLICK OR TAP THE QR CODE

to make a contribution to the **Vula Fund**, in support of the Hiltonian Society's community service initiative.







THE MAGIC OF CONNECTION

It's an "aha" moment; when it hits, it transforms boys into men — caring, kind and compassionate men — who understand the diversity of the world with their feet planted firmly on the ground, rather than from a pedestal of privilege.

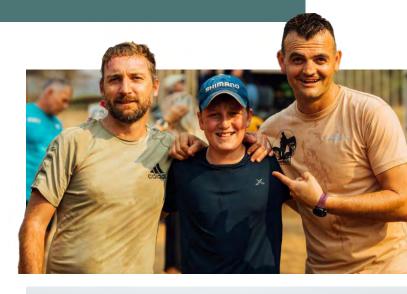
Chris Kingsley, an English teacher at Hilton College, also serves as the school's Head of Community Partnerships. The work he is involved in is monumentally empowering, not least because it rescues many wealthy boys from a rich saviour complex.

The phrase "noblesse oblige" was explored by French novelist Honoré de Balzac in his 1835 novel The Lily of the Valley. It delves into the moral obligation of affluent individuals to act honourably and generously towards those less fortunate. Balzac uses different characters to demonstrate how virtue comes from one's actions and moral choices rather than by birthright or social standing.

Hilton College's Community Partnerships projects are founded on the principle of growing kindness. This is not about wealthy individuals giving scraps from their tables or old clothes to the poor.

"We focus on changing our lens on the world so that we are relevant to our community," says Kingsley. It is about making sure Hilton College is rooted in its community, rather than being an island of splendour in a sea of poverty. This ethos is developed through teaching ethical leadership, the cornerstone of which is compassion.

Community partnerships come alive in a host of projects that provide continuous opportunities for boys to make authentic connections with Hilton's neighbours. Through education and experience, the boys come to appreciate the impact of meaningful, long-term relationships premised on integrating engagement. The emphasis is on understanding, empathy, and responsible giving.







The collaborative community work creates space for discussions around kindness, often not about altruism or welfare. For example, the Crazy Chicken Hunt (an immersion in the Sweetwaters community near the school) wasn't about swooping in on a charity mission. It was about making an effort to know your neighbours. Boys returning from the experience delighted in finding out about the welcoming community and learning about their daily reality.

Another project is the partnership with Thembelihle School, South Africa's lowest-fee private school situated across the valley from Hilton College, one of the country's highest-fee private schools. The partnership is multi-faceted and includes Hilton boys helping coach sports three afternoons a week. Thembelihle has a single sports coach for 450 pupils.

The boys also help with after-care and homework. And they participate in community clean-up initiatives in Howick. The experiences prompt poignant discussions about a host of issues about the adverse conditions many of Hilton's neighbours live in, including child-headed households that survive on social grants. All this fosters an appreciation for how everyone's normal is so different.

After an outing to help look after children at a creche one of the boys said: "It was good to come out of our bubble and learn from other people."

Kingsley says the boys talk about privilege and kindness. "The process is incredible. You can't force this; you have to experience it. We're all on different journeys. We try to create the right space for the 'aha' moment. The harsh realities in South Africa can be chaotic and overwhelming. We can't control everything, but we can unpack kindness and empathy. It creates understanding."

Spending time with neighbours and getting their hands dirty fixing potholes, tending gardens, picking up litter, painting, and cleaning chicken coops with Love Howick all facilitates empathy and understanding.

Similarly, involvement in a range of fund-raising sporting activities also serves this purpose.

IN 2023:



Our boys raised R15,000 in a Run for Richter event in honour of the late Tony Richter. The money was donated to the Singakwenza Foundation, which focuses on early childhood development.



Our swimmers, mostly water polo players, launched a Swim for Lives campaign and swam the Midmar Mile to raise money for children suffering from cancer.



Old Hiltonian Harry Bailey continued his Run for Rangers campaign and was joined by four of our boys. They ran 260kms over two days and raised R67,900 in support of Rhino rangers.



Our boys launched a Tennis for Lives Campaign, playing in a 24-hour tennis marathon. They raised R70,000 for Bibles for believers in Malawi.



A swimming team collectively swam a total of 4,448 lengths - 111 kms, which is roughly the distance from Hilton to Umhlanga - in 24 hours to raise R44,000 for a JoJo tank and water pump for a Pietermaritzburg children's home. The initiative also saw a special bond created with a boy called Josh and fundraising for a motorised wheelchair for him, giving him the gift of movement.

"All these initiatives," Kingsley says, "have allowed us to deepen the bonds with our community, celebrate one another, and change lives — both ours and theirs. The upshot is that we see one another, learn one another's names and show our hearts."



A GLORIOUS SPACE

More than anything else, the Hilton Estate is the defining asset of Hilton College, providing generations of boys with the space to roam and explore. While the campus continues to evolve to meet the demands of modern education, the estate remains constant, linking the 19th and 21st-century versions of the college and endorsing its position as a rural boarding school.

Since its founding on a substantial sub-division of the Voortrekker farm Ongegund, Hilton has absorbed a series of land acquisitions, resulting in the current property of more than 1,600 hectares.

The Hilton Estate is situated at the end of a prominent spur above the uMngeni River valley and consists of a large plateau area, Gwens gorge, which includes four waterfalls and a significant tract of land within the uMngeni River valley. The upper part of the estate within the plateau area is undulating and incorporates two shallow valleys of moist Midlands mistbelt grassland.

The uMngeni River valley is deeply incised into its surroundings, with a height difference of approximately 400m between the plateau and the valley floor. The valley is edged with steep slopes and some impressive cliffs.

In January 2011, the uMngeni valley and the Gwens portion of the estate were proclaimed a Nature Reserve under the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme. Thus, the wilderness that has contributed to the Hilton experience since 1872 has been permanently secured.

With the varied vegetation and topography of the estate comes a catalogue of around 300 species of birds. Oribi, duiker, reedbuck and warthog are commonly seen on the plateau, and the uMngeni valley reserve area boasts nyala, bushbuck, impala, wildebeest, giraffe, zebra, warthog, caracal, serval and jackal, as well as a variety of smaller creatures.



















A RALLYING CRY

Dear Hiltonians and members of the Hilton family,

For 152 years, generations of Hiltonians have selflessly contributed to building a legacy that has stood the test of time. This legacy, embodied in all that is Hilton College, has been made possible through generous acts of benefaction, without which the school would not be what it is today.

As custodians of this legacy, we are reminded of our responsibility to continue building our great school for current and future generations. In today's political and socio-economic climate, the need to preserve and enhance centres of excellence is perhaps more important than ever before.

Hilton, like most leading schools all over the world, relies on endowment funding to thrive. The primary reason is that these schools are run as not-for-profit organisations, thus not generating any significant financial surplus that can be put to reserves.

Contributions to Hilton are managed by the Hilton College Endowment Foundation, a trust, managed by seven trustees, four independent of the school's Board of Governors. We are reminded by the foundations' trust deed that first consideration for assistance will be given to descendants of Old Hiltonians, who through lack of means would otherwise be unable to attend Hilton.

The sobering reality is that funds under management only generate an annual return, after catering for inflation, of approximately R2.5m. When one considers that annual school fees are about R400,000, this means that the school's foundation can only pay for one pupil per grade in any year. Quite clearly, this is hopelessly inadequate.

The Hilton College Endowment Foundation manages four separate funds, each with a specific focus, catering to a diverse constituency of stakeholders with differing interests. Understandably, some Hiltonians will choose to support growing a human capital focussed endowment, others a building infrastructure endowment, while others may choose to support environmental or social causes.

But let there be no confusion, Hilton's greatest need is to build a meaningful endowment that is able to provide financial assistance to promising pupils – including sons of Old Hiltonians. For this reason, I urge you to embrace our culture of giving and make a regular financial contribution – no matter how big or small – to the Lift Up Your Hearts Fund.

For far too long Hilton has had to rely on a handful of extremely generous benefactors. This is unsustainable. If we, the vast majority of Hiltonians, over 6,000 in number, each make a modest monthly contribution the cumulative effect will be significant.

We are reminded that the privilege of a Hilton education has been made possible by generous contributions of many people over the past 152 years. As we look to the future, we call on all members of the Hilton family to play their part in supporting our great school.

"It is gratifying to be part of something bigger than ourselves, so let's continue Building Hilton Together!"



Anton Jooste (1991, Falcon) Chairman The Old Hiltonian Club



HILTON TIES

Imagine a platform exclusively for members of the Hilton family; a place where we can collaborate for professional purposes – and keep up with news from Hilton College; a place to find or offer mentoring and employment opportunities. Imagine this platform has 2,300 members, among them 110 directors and 90 CEOs, and 70 percent of members willing to help others in the network.

Hilton Ties is such a platform. Driven by a belief in the power of community, networking, and mentorship, The Old Hiltonian Club launched **www.hiltonties.com** in September 2023.

Imagine what this digital networking platform can do for you.

Firstly, Hilton Ties enables **business networking.** In today's competitive world, the ability to connect with fellow alumni, industry professionals, and

potential collaborators is invaluable. Hilton Ties makes it convenient for alumni like us to expand our professional networks, share insights, and explore new business ventures.

Mentoring is an integral part of personal and professional growth, and Hilton Ties offers a remarkable avenue for alumni to engage in mentorship opportunities. The platform allows experienced alumni to provide guidance, support, and mentorship to current students and recent graduates, helping them navigate the challenges of their chosen fields.

Hilton Ties also has the potential to improve the **recruitment** process for both graduates and employers. Alumni can benefit from access to a wealth of talent by offering internships, career advice, or employment opportunities to talented Old Hiltonians.

In addition to these core elements, Hilton Ties keeps our community informed about **events**, **news**, and **achievements**, ensuring that we stay connected and involved in the success of Hilton College.



CONNECT

Connect with fellow Hiltonians, from alumni to parents and senior boys, and expand your professional network and grow your brand.

RECRUIT OR BE RECRUITED

Ours is a vast and unique network of highly connected and resourced people.

MENTOR OR BE MENTORED

Many Hiltonians, including entrepreneurs, professionals, and captains of industry, are willing to mentor fellow Hiltonians.



Old Hiltonians • Boys • Parents

www.hiltonties.com



THANKS TO OUR BENEFACTORS

The Roll of Benefactors of The Hiltonian Society was established by the Board of Governors in 1991 and records the names of those whose contribution to The Society, or associated entities, has equalled or exceeded a year's school fee (at current rate).

Our heartfelt thanks to the following benefactors:

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THANKS TO OUR MONTHLY DONORS

We are sincerely grateful to our regular donors for their faithful giving. Your kind support makes a difference.

Our database hosts the records of about 6,800 living Old Hiltonians and we have contact details for about 5,200 of those on the database. Yet we have only 88 monthly donors, i.e. less than two percent of Old Hiltonians.

We appeal to all Old Hiltonians to sign up as monthly donors. It matters not how much you give, but rather that you give. If a lot of us give a little, we can do a great deal more for our boys.

Addison, PJD Antonie, MM Armstrong, BM Beatie, MD. Beltramini, S Braithwaite, ADW Bredin, MS Bryant, WGH Burman MW (Mark) Burman REW (Roger) Burman RW (Robert) Campbell, D Collins, AV Columbine, RB

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Wimble, Dr KE

Yuill, D

Less than 2% of Old Hiltonians are monthly donors.



ELITE, NOT ELITIST

Dear members of the Hilton family,

Have you considered the distinction between elite and elitist?

I believe that there is an important distinction: Hilton is elite, but not elitist. There is no fault in seeking excellence or aspiring to reach one's highest potential. High achievers comfortably declare their desire for excellence. Elitist, on the other hand, signifies a detachment from society, a state of remote irrelevance.

The underlying principle of Hilton's endowment fund is to support the school's desire for excellence through the financial support of the scholarships and bursaries programmes. The Hilton College Endowment Foundation (HCEF) is what I, together with six other trustees, all of us old boys, manage. The HCEF is a trust, a separate legal entity, but with a close working relationship with the school, the old boys and Vula.

Every year a few hundred boys apply to attend our wonderful school, and an increasing proportion of these families ask for some form of financial assistance. Hilton College endeavours to recruit boys who will make a positive impact on the school and on their classmates, teammates, and housemates too, including those who may not be able to afford the fees.

About one-third of Hilton College boys pay fees subsidised by the school, the endowment fund or donors.





Around the world, elite organisations incur high operational costs. At Hilton College these costs include securing top teachers and staff; maintaining high-quality academic, boarding, cultural and sporting facilities.

We have to meet the costs of new classroom technologies and fast-growing sports like water polo, soccer and basketball.

These resources enable us to attract and cultivate the leaders South Africa needs – individuals who are comfortable to lead in cultural, sporting, religious, government, or business teams and organisations.

The school has gained and grown from the contribution and achievements of boys who are, or have been, financially supported during their time at Hilton College. A strong endowment will underpin our school's future success, and, looking ahead, the cost of Hilton fees, relative to our competitor schools, may restrict our ability to enroll a diverse and talented array of boys.

A walk through our school grounds finds eminent names like the Crookes and Campbell blocks, the Falcon and Ellis houses, the Gilfillan field, the Zungu pavilion and the Chamberlain music facility. Each of these buildings were financed mostly from generous single donations, often with multiple smaller donors contributing too.

All donations make their impact, but to be sustainable requires a culture of giving, not a single event but a process of regular small donations. Uniquely in South Africa, all Hilton old boys are shareholders of our great school. We old boys are surely most bound and intrinsically connected to Hilton College's sustained success.

The fervent desire of our school and the HCEF is to grow the current endowment capital from the current R74m to R500m, with the primary purpose of these greater funds being for the financial support for scholarships and bursaries of deserving boys, including old boys' sons.

Each contribution you make will strengthen the Hilton ethos and excellence.

The boys who benefit will surely be standing on the shoulders of giants.

Guy Hayward (1982, Falcon) Chairman Hilton College Endowment Foundation



SCORECARD



Top SA Universities

accepting our boys

Stellenbosch University, University of Cape Town, University of Pretoria and University of the Witwatersrand





2nd

best-performing

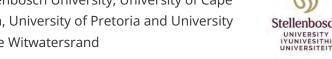
(in terms of A symbols

in SA in 2023

per candidate)

independent boys' school







Top International Universities

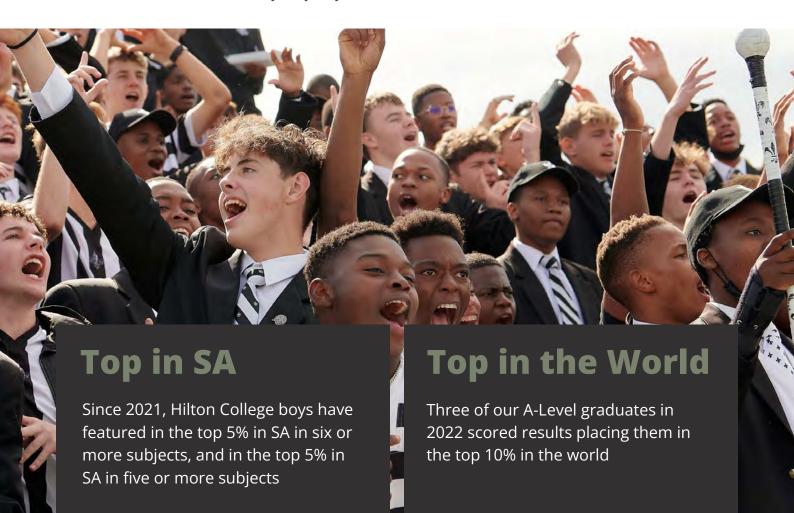
accepting our boys

Harvard, Columbia, Stanford, Yale, University of California, University of Notre Dame, University of Bath, University of St Andrews, University of Sydney











52

the number of concerts performed by our students in 2023

One-third

of our boys play or are learning to play a music instrument

Dan Newell

Principal Trumpeter of the Royal Opera House and Head of Brass at the Royal College of Music has joined the Hilton Collge music staff





WAYS TO GIVE

Whichever way you choose to give back, your generosity is appreciated.



SCAN, CLICK OR TAP THE QR CODE

We welcome donations to any of the four main causes we advance. In addition, we gratefully accept donations towards any project that doesn't specifically fit into any of these categories.









BECOME A REGULAR DONOR

Make your donation by EFT, debit order, or through our secure online payment form. For recurring payments (locally or internationally), we support Mastercard and Visa credit cards.

MAKE A ONCE-OFF DONATION

Make a donation by EFT, debit order, or through our secure online payment form. We support Mastercard and Visa credit cards.

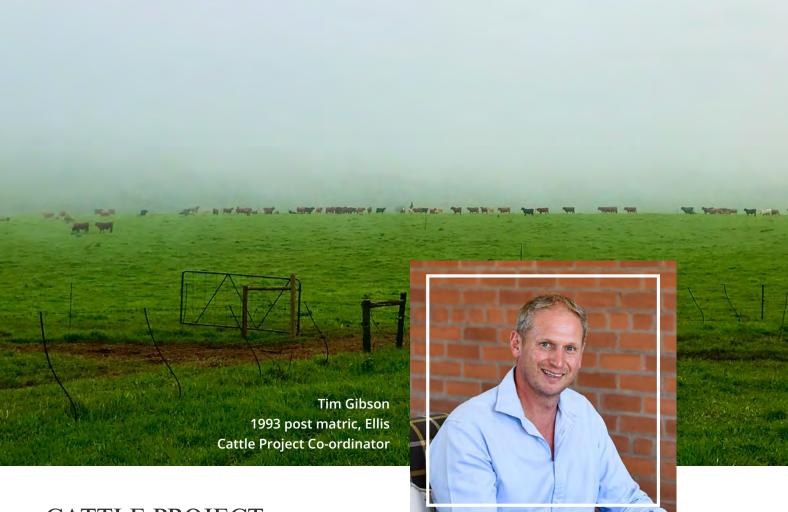
DONATE SHARES

As your company grows from strength to strength, our foundation could benefit from capital appreciation and dividend distributions. Consider donating shares in your public or private company to the Hilton College Endowment Foundation. For tax benefits, you can only deduct public shares that you donate (not private shares).

MAKE A BEQUEST

Ensure your legacy lives on to benefit Hilton College and its learners for decades to come. A bequest is a specific provision in your will directing certain assets in your estate to a beneficiary. Also known as a planned or deferred gift, a bequest allows you to enjoy your assets in your lifetime but share their benefits once you pass on.





CATTLE PROJECT

Launched in 2009 with the donation of 40 oxen, our cattle project has contributed significantly to the endowment fund, which in turn contributes to funding bursaries.

We've converted all our maize lands to Kikuyu pasture and increased our carrying capacity to between 700 and 850 oxen per season.

This growth has happened through weaner sponsorship and the reinvestment of project profits.

Join the cattle project by making a once-off donation of R8,000 to the Hiltonian Society. This is used to buy an ox, who you get to name.

A competition is held annually to award the owner of the animal that gains the most weight. If "your" ox finishes the season with the highest average daily gain, you walk away from the AGM with the Pat Eustace floating trophy and the grand prize of 1kg of biltong!

For more information, please email cattle@hiltoncollege.com.



CONTACT US

To discuss any aspect of giving, please contact:
Peter Storrar
Director of Advancement
advancement@hiltoncollege.com





