



200

Leadership Life Lessons Booklet



"From one generation to the next"

The Old Muirite Union
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200th Year Founder's Week
a success !



200 Leadership Life Lessons

In celebration of Muir College's 200th Year

Compiled by Project Co-Ordinator

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The history and origins of Muir College Boys' High School

Muir College traces its origin back to 1822, when a Scottish educationist, James Rose Innes, established Uitenhage's first Government Free School in a house probably situated at the bottom of Cuyler Street in October 1822 with 60 pupils, irrespective of gender, ethnicity or class. From the outset the school was a success, not least because Innes offered instruction in both English and Dutch, which proved popular with both the English and Dutch-speaking populace. By 1829 the enrolment had almost trebled. Innes was succeeded by Mr Thomas Thompson in 1830 and he in turn was succeeded by Mr John Gibson in 1840.

In 1865 the Proprietary School – more exclusive and fee-paying - opened. Its founding headmaster was the Rev. Robert Templeton M.A. When he left Uitenhage at the end of 1866 to take up a position in Bedford, he was succeeded by Mr F.H. Brice as headmaster. As an independent school and therefore receiving no financial support from government, the Proprietary School soon ran into difficulties. As it was not on the list of Government Schools, the school was not able to access financial support from the government, but Brice's school managed to survive.

The Education Act of 1865 paved the way for Government Schools, 100% funded by government, to become state-aided schools, as the authorities wanted local communities to share the financial burden of running the schools as well as to have a greater say in the management of their schools.



Many of these lacked the success of the Uitenhage institution. When Mr Gibson retired on 31 December 1872, his school was 'abolished' as a Government School but on 1 January 1873 an amalgamation of the two schools took place and it opened as the Uitenhage Undenominational Public School, (UPS). Mr Brice was appointed principal of the newly amalgamated institution.

The application of the Education Act was based on all Government Free Schools first being legally 'removed' from the Establishment before the new funding model was applied. All Established Government Free Schools were therefore technically 'closed' on the resignation, retirement, death or dismissal of the principal, followed by the re-registration of the school as a state-aided non-denominational (in other words not linked to or administered by any church) public school. This 'closure' therefore mostly did not mean the complete end of a school – rather it was a re-classification process that allowed for the re-opening of a school on a different financial and management model, under a new principal, but often in the same building with the same pupils.

In 1875 the UPS moved to Park Avenue and following the threat of closure on account of financial issues, was revived as a 'First Class Public School for Boys' in July 1888. In 1892 the Public School's name changed to the Muir Academy in honour of the new Superintendent General of Education, Sir Thomas Muir. In 1904 a new school building of red brick, designed by William White-Cooper, was opened on the Park Avenue site by Dr Muir. By now the Muir Academy was being referred to as Muir High School, but by 1907 it was widely known as Muir College.

In 1962 Muir Primary became a separate, independent institution and occupied the Preparatory Block in Cannon Street. Muir College Boys' High School moved to Vanes Estate in 1987 and Muir Primary moved into the Park Avenue buildings. The Senior and Primary schools amalgamated in 1994 and now occupy the Vanes Estate site.

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Fast being recognised internationally as The Academy Awards of Football, 2021 marked the 12th Edition and our 12th year of creative direction and delivery. We are extremely proud to be part of this journey, and even more proud to claim our roots in Muir College.

Congratulations Muir College! It is an honour to be part of this historic moment and mark 200 incredible years with you. *Nec Pluribus Impar!*

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Preface

This book seeks to give Old Muirites, teachers and friends of Muir an opportunity to pass on wisdom in the written word for Muir boys and scholars in general. In addition, we have also supplemented the lessons with quotes from notable persons. The inspiration around collecting 200 words coincides with the school's second centenary celebrations.



Life experience is arguably the greatest teacher, second only to the wisdom of individuals of those who went before us. We were able to marry the two with this offering. Scholars will be able to draw from the well of wisdom presented by our contributors.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that many young adults are not prepared for life after school. The book sought to address this issue. Being aware that we could not solve it; we had merely hoped to add a positive voice to the post school identity formulation. These voices cover an array of topics as the reader will soon discover and my hope is that you will learn a thing or two.

I wish to thank everyone who took the time to contribute, collect the words and edit it. Your time is precious and now it will be memorialised in this book. Thank you to the organisations who advertised and bought into our vision and especially **Driving Force Advertising** for designing the book.

Enjoy.

Thomas F Terblanche

Old Muirite Union Committee Member

WHEN IT COMES TO HANDLING YOUR PACKAGE, WE'RE ALSO OLD SCHOOL.

And we're not talking about our technology (which is state-of-the-art, by the way). We just believe in getting your items from A to B as quickly and safely as possible.

But enough about us.

Congratulations Muir College on your 200th birthday!

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Disclaimer

The purpose of this publication is to educate, inspire and encourage young people through the contributions of more than 200 individuals with the addition of ideas expressed in various ways by many public figures and experts in the fields of leadership, life and related topics. It is therefore inevitable that some unacknowledged borrowings of the thoughts, ideas and words of many others have been interwoven into the text.

Obvious quotes are, where possible, acknowledged. Where acknowledgement may be due but has been inadvertently omitted, we apologise, and thank the originators for their wisdom that has clearly been assimilated by and has influenced the thinking of so many of our contributors.



Old Muirite Union Message

Welcome to the 200 Leadership Life Lessons Booklet facilitated by the Old Muirite Union as part of the Muir College 200-year celebrations.

The Union has obtained words of wisdom from many Old Muirites, past and current teachers, business and community leaders as well as quotes from well-known national and international personalities.

Tradition comes in many forms and Muir College is no stranger to tradition. We share these leadership lessons not only with current Muir College learners, but also learners and educators from surrounding schools. In this way we share insights and experience from previous generations to the current generation.

The inaugural Kariega Careers Symposium, of which this Booklet is part of, is the start of a new tradition in which Old Muirites will be invited on an annual basis to share information on their careers and work opportunities via a structured career event.

The Old Muirite Union would like to thank all 200-year Founders' Week partners, and in particular the advertisers of this Booklet who have made the production possible as well as the Class of 1988 for their generous contribution.

We trust that you will enjoy reading every page and making many of these pearls of wisdom part of your life.

Andrew Binning

*Old Muirite Union (OMU) President 2022
On behalf of the OMU Leadership*



Headmaster's Message

I would like to congratulate and thank the members of the Old Muirite Union Committee for the 200 Life Lessons initiative. I must single out **Mr Thomas Terblanche**, who has been the driving force behind the project.

What an inspiration it is for our learners to receive these 'pearls of wisdom' to draw upon in the future. The book also is a demonstration of the affinity that Old Muirites have for their alma mater and the boys of the current generation.

Nec Pluribus Impar

Robin Stephenson

Muir College Headmaster



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IMAGINE.
DISCOVER.**

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STEP TO A
LIMITLESS
FUTURE
STARTS
HERE**

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Why Kariega Careers Symposium?

The inaugural Kariega Careers Symposium, which includes the 200 Leadership Life Lessons Booklet, provides an opportunity for various stakeholders including Old Muirites and educational institutions to input into the lives of young learners in Nelson Mandela Bay.

The Kariega Careers Symposium forms part of Muir College's 200- year celebration and aims to bring Old Muirites who have made a success of their careers to share their knowledge and passion with the learners of Kariega, thereby passing on their experience and knowledge gained in their work environment.

Linking learning and the job market is essential as learners transition from school to work and this is an opportunity for learners from Kariega and surrounds to engage one on one with the stakeholders and learn more about various professions, skills and entrepreneurial opportunities.

A special welcome to Professor Jonathan Jansen as well as Old Muirites from around the world who have travelled to attend this event. The knowledge and experience that will be shared will add incredible value to all those in attendance.

Thank you to Muir College for hosting the Symposium, our local and regional partners and in particular our national partner, the National Convention Bureau (an entity of South African Tourism), for making this event possible.

Online Applications are NOW OPEN!

**Opening date: Monday, 1 August 2022 &
Closing date: Friday, 30 September 2022**

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This Booklet forms part of the Kariega Careers Symposium which is part of Muir College's 200 year Celebration. The Symposium aims to share career options and encourage entrepreneurship amongst the youth of our City. Old Muirites from around the world and South Africa will share of their expertise, professions and what they have learnt in their chosen occupation.



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SYMPOSIUM**

Check out our new alumni platform Mandela Alumni Connect

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Mandela Alumni Connect allows you to re-connect with old classmates and use the trusted Nelson Mandela University community to expand your professional network.



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GIVE BACK

Introduce, employ and offer to act as a mentor to our graduating students.



EXPAND

Leverage your professional network to get introduced to people you should know!



ADVANCE

Advance your career through inside connections working in top companies and access to exclusive resources.



FIND JOBS

Post openings and find job leads

Abrahams, Faheem

Class of 2003



Whether you subscribe to fate, destiny or the will to manifest your own destiny, the road on your journey won't always be clear. It will require continuous work to carve your path. Prepare and sustain yourself as well as those around you with love, respect, knowledge and understanding - and I promise that, wherever you go, you will remain fulfilled. Take care of yourself and your loved ones.

Ali, Muhammed

World Champion Boxer

***If my mind can conceive it,
and my heart can believe it
- then I can achieve it.***

Astbury, John

Class of 1977

Develop yourself in life and in your career by seeking out and taking on challenging assignments. Differentiate yourself from your peers and become known as someone who can step up and deliver despite the obstacles and challenges these assignments often present. Always be on the lookout for growth opportunities and make sure you position yourself as ready and willing to take them on, even if it means more workload - professionally, in sports, and in life in general. Do not blend into the average!

Leaders appreciate, rate and seek out highly talented people who are not only qualified and experienced, but who have a can-do attitude and who can be trusted to deliver solid results. Build your acumen and stand-out from the norm, create your personal brand with a value proposition that makes it difficult for leadership to ignore you, and reap the benefits of the recognition this brings.



Bakker, Mark

Class of 1988

***'So, I commend the enjoyment of life, because there is nothing better for a person under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany them in their toil all the days of the life God has given them under the sun.'* - Ecclesiastes 8:15.**

A successful life is one of balance. One needs to visualize the different facets of your life as spokes in a wheel. Your life will be taken up by Family, Work, Social, Cultural, Spiritual, Self-Improvement, Health & Fitness and Community Services. These aspects of your life, or spokes in your life wheel, require equal attention to achieve a balanced life. Too much emphasis on one or more of the spokes will lead to the wheel not running smoothly, it will be unbalanced. Too much attention and time spent at work could lead to your family being neglected, too much time spent socialising could affect your health & fitness, etc. You will get bogged down with different aspects of your life from time to time, but making time for yourself and enjoying life is necessary so that you can keep up with all your responsibilities.



Balshaw, Kathryn

Relation-Based Solutions & Training



Never underestimate the power of your influence. Wherever you are, look for opportunities to speak life; to bring encouragement; and to re-ignite hope when despair has set in. Be a sower of **'golden seeds'**, which is the expression of belief in someone's ability. Be a catalyst for something great to happen in someone else's life. Whether you are the CEO of a company; a software engineer; a musician; a physiotherapist or an entrepreneur, grow in the skill of bringing out the best in others and you will go far.

Barty, Ashley

World Champion Boxer

***Don't let your emotions
be your primary
decision maker.***

Barnard, Fenner

Class of 1998



Malcolm S Forbes said:

***'You can easily judge
the character of a man
by how he treats those who can do
nothing for him'.***

Muir College has produced gentlemen for two centuries, and while the definition of a gentlemen will differ, you cannot separate it from the Forbes' quote.

Most people are charming when they need to build a relationship or get someone to do something for them, but are also often dismissive of those at the lower end of the social strata of our country and the world.

A kind word, a smile and a moment of interest in those around you will cost you nothing, but will enrich both your life and theirs! As you climb the ladder of success during your respective careers and lives, I hope that you will measure yourselves not by the contents of your bank accounts or the achievements that will gain you plaudits from those important to you. The way that you treat others, particularly strangers or people that you will never encounter again, will always be the truest indication of who you really are.

Basson, Alard

Class of 2014

I have had a very challenging but also rewarding 26 years of life thus far and have learnt a lot in the process of pursuing my passions, goals and desires, bumping my head a few times, and getting some hard knocks from life, but I can boldly say that I have experienced and still am experiencing the greater rewards that have come with persistence. The most powerful thing I have come to realize in life is that life is a journey with no destination, the process of living life and the process of chasing our goals and desires holds more significance than the actual goal itself, so enjoy the process and understand that the moment you find yourself in right now will not happen twice over again. Understanding that life is a series of choices that will define who and what you turn out to be in the future unlocked in me a different way of thinking.

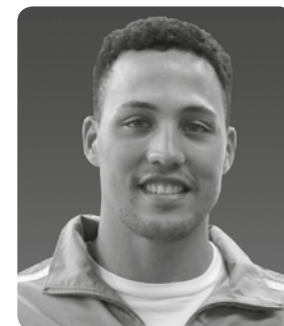
So, the biggest life lesson I have learnt is that happiness and success lies within MY DECISION to be happy and to ENJOY THE PROCESS of life with its struggles and its victorious moments. We all possess the ability to be great, it is up to you to decide what you want to be great in!



Basson, Alaric

Class of 2014

I am Alaric Basson former South African national swimming champion. *One of my favourite quotes in life is from the movie, Coach Carter –*



‘Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate, our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light not our darkness that frightens us the most. Playing small does not serve the world.’

My life lesson and something that I’ve lived by my entire life is that wherever you find yourself in life, do the task that is in front of you to the best of your ability always, even if it feels like you are not in the right place at the right time. Even if you’re battling with finding yourself or your purpose, make sure that whatever you do right now, you put your head down and do as best you can, and when you lift up your head again you will be surprised at where you find yourself. It is a simple life hack.

Bayman, Tyrone

Class of 1983

***It does not matter
what they think;
it matters what
YOU think !***

***It does not matter who they are;
it matters who YOU are !***



Beaumont, Ivan

Class of 1970

There is only one person you will spend your whole life with and that's yourself. Therefore, believe in yourself, trust your instincts, stay true to your values, and enjoy each and every day you spend on this beautiful planet.

***If you need life rules, you need go no further than
Jordan Peterson's 12 Rules for Life.***



Beckett, Mark

Class of 1989

Being a people pleaser, I've always found it difficult to be everything to everyone. I've been able to control this habit by identifying my values. Your values are what make you who you are. Being a Muirite you have been given a great foundation on which to develop your values. Use your values as your filter for whatever you do in life.



Berglar, Luke

Class of 2008

***Work for a cause, not for applause.
Live life to express, not to impress.
Don't strive to make your presence
noticed, just make your absence
felt. Rather open your hands to serve than to receive,
and you will realise how blessed you are in ways
others are not. Unless you attempt to do something
beyond what you have already mastered, you will
never grow.***



Bhana, Ryan

Class of 2001

***In life, you get
what you focus on.
So, focus on what
you want.***



Biles, Simone

American Olympic Gymnast

***Cowards die many times
before their deaths; he
valiant never taste of
death but once.'***

- William Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, Act II, Scene 2

Binning, Andrew

*Class of 1988, Old Muirite
Union President*

There is so much going on around us that is easy to become distracted. Whatever you find yourself doing - school work, sport, work or leisure - give that moment 100%. Do not worry about what is next on your agenda - that time will come - and when it does, also give it 100% of your focus.



Blow, Joss

Class of 1988

You need to have certain principles to guide you through life.
I have two:

***"I shall not fear anyone on earth - I shall only
fear God" and "If at first you don't succeed, try
and try again."***



Bonga, Lubabalo

Class of 2007

Success in life is relative and it's up to each man to define his own success. Some will be good sportsmen, some businessmen and some family men, etc.

Every path in life requires a sacrifice and it's up to you what you're willing to sacrifice to get where you want to be!



Bosman, Dean

Class of 1999

In life, success is never achieved alone. Success is the making of support from family and friends. Surround yourself (always) with people who have strong, noble values and ambitious attitudes, and allow you to be true to yourself. ***Never veer too far off the path of humility and kindness. Be second to none!***

Botten, Brett

Class of 1982

It was during my days at Muir College in the '70's and early '80's that I learned about the importance of collaboration and teamwork. When I look back on my career, what stands out for me is the importance of culture and teamwork in an organization, and the importance of having the right people on your team. In the words of Peter Drucker, a legendary management consultant, ***"Culture eats strategy for breakfast!"***



I believe that a big contributor towards the creation of a powerful and empowering culture is that, as a leader, you need to ensure that you have the right people on your team. What then makes a person ***"the right person?"*** - He/she must be competent, in terms of qualifications and skills, to fill the assigned role. He/she must have the right character traits - integrity, respect, passion, resilience, optimism, and a positive attitude. The right players, in the right positions on your team, will enable you, as the leader, to build and foster a culture that will be a significant factor towards ensuring that goals and objectives are realised.

Branson, Richard

Entrepreneur & founder of the Virgin Group of companies

You can't run a business without taking risks. Don't do it if you don't enjoy it. Believe in your ideas & be the best. The best way to learn is by doing.

Brennan, Justin

Class of 1985

As the world modernizes and disrupts there are many challenges, but also incredible opportunities ahead of us - an environment where people and teams can express themselves or share ideas. Psychological safety is vital to increase innovation, more ownership and faster learning. Leadership must create the platform where people belong and feel valued.



Brown, Michelle

*PR Specialist
& Gqeberha
Business Woman*



When the global pandemic hit us and lockdown ensued, I read a beautiful quote that remains on my desk, two years later, and is also relevant today: When the dust settles, we need to realize three things:

***(1) how little we need,
(2) how much we actually have, and
(3) the true value of human contact***

These lessons should resonate with all global citizens, whatever age, nationality, or gender. I hope that we all keep them in mind for many years to come. ***#Be kind.***

Bubb, Shawn

Class of 1999

*Bernard M Baruch said,
“Most of the successful
people I have known are the
ones that do more listening
than talking.”*

Listening is one of the most important skills a successful leader can have. Many times, we talk so much that we are not aware of what the people around us are saying. We often hear them, but we do not listen to them. A good leader listens to those above him, to those beside him and to those below him. So, before you answer too quickly, be still, listen and then reply.



Burley, Gareth

Local Radio Personality

Find out what recharges your batteries. Connect with how you were designed and wired. And don't be surprised at how much capacity you have inside you. Push it! Dig deep, try new things, explore the depths of your design and capacity.

It's not a secret. It's all according to a brilliant designer with you in mind. Then do those things you discover as often as you like. No one else will do it for you. And it will keep you going and dreaming and living and discovering and loving.



Cairncross, Robbie

Class of 1980

What now? Life is all about choices. You are going to make some important decisions shortly, especially as you finish school. What to do, where to study, where to go? Making choices is based on the information you have. Information is based on a source. Bad source, bad information, bad choices/decisions and bad results. Good source, good information, good decision and good results. If you drive a Porsche, do you go to use a Kia driver's manual? Certainly not.

You were created by the loving creator of the universe. Why not then choose His way and His manual to help you in your important decisions. There is not a problem He cannot solve or a question He cannot answer. In Him and in the Bible you will find answers that will help you with your big questions. Surely if He has created all, He will know what is best for you. Find out what His plan is for you. If you seek Him and His way in all your choices, then you will have success. If you practice what you get there, then you will surely go over and not under. Speaking to Him is called prayer. Here is the first prayer to receiving Him and His kingdom and your purpose:



'My Loving Father, thank you for my life and the plans you have for me. I now come to you being born away from you, being born in sin and unrighteousness. Thank you for Jesus Christ who through your love for me represented in Him, took all my sins, my unrighteousness and separation from you upon Himself. Jesus I now come to your cross, and everything I come to your cross with is crucified with you. It is dead and gone. Thank you now I am also resurrected with you, a new creation, into your presence, your love, your grace, your peace and purpose, into your kingdom, power and glory. Now as child of yours I am able to approach you, my Loving Father - as a son - and I have an inheritance of good things.'

Now speak, ask, inquire, and enjoy the new road and journey with Him in all your decision making.

Callaghan, Dave

Ex Protea Cricketer

In one's lifetime one will encounter many challenges, and it's no different in sport or in a business career. After leaving school, I was determined to play professional sport against all odds. Due to apartheid, South African sportsmen had limited opportunities to play international cricket or rugby. You could play domestically or work towards a county cricket career as an individual. Tough challenge, as each county was only

allowed to register two overseas players and all the best players in the world played county cricket at the time. In my 20 years of professional cricket and my relatively short business career, plus my fight against cancer, I learnt that you never know what is around the corner, and if you adopt the right attitude, you will achieve success.

In September 1991 I was diagnosed with cancer and had to go through 4 months of chemotherapy treatment. My last session of chemo finished on the 23rd of December 1991, and in December 1992, a year later, I walked out at Newlands in the green and gold against India in Cape Town. At the start of the 1991/92 season, after my fight against cancer I had to fight my way back into a very strong Eastern Province Cricket team. The team had won several trophies during this time under the captaincy of Kepler Wessels, and we had several good players in the squad. Many people forget that two weeks before representing the Proteas in Cape Town, I was playing in the Eastern Province "B" side. Due to my illness the previous season, Kepler made me fight for my position back in the Eastern Province "A" side. After first scoring a century in the "B" side, I won my place back in the "A" side for the next weekend match and then went on to score another century and 80 odd not out against a strong Transvaal side. During the next week, I was selected for South Africa and walked out for the Proteas against India at Newlands two weeks later.

Never quit, if you stumble get back up. What happened yesterday no longer matters. Today is another day, so get on track and move closer to your dreams and goals.

"You can do it!"

Candido, Ross

Class of 2003

Take and proactively seek out challenge, resilience is a powerful learned behaviour. Hard paths offer lessons. Reflect and equip yourself. It's not supposed to be easy. Dream Big and Be Curious. The world is in a constant state of change. Curiosity means you'll learn quicker and explore opportunities others might dismiss. Then whatever you do, do it with conviction and intention. Otherwise, the only person who loses out is you.



Catele, Lubabalo

Class of 1998

Gentlemen, learn to trust yourself and your abilities.

Tim Ferris once said,

“What we fear most is usually what we most need to do”.



Claassen, Riaan

Class of 1987, Honorary Life Vice President

There is no good fortune in achieving success.

Create your own good luck by taking calculated opportunities presented to you and coupling it with lots of hard and smart work.



Cliff, Gareth

Radio Personality

The whole point is to take personal responsibility. That's how you can start to live a meaningful life.

Combrinck, Heilie

Editor of UD News

Having been in the news industry, I have learnt that one can never really understand a story unless one gets both sides of it.

An African saying explains it best:

“Until the lion has its own storyteller, the hunter will always have the best part of the story.”

In Latin it is said: “Audi alteram partem”, meaning that you must listen to the other side or let the other side be heard as well. No person should be judged without a fair hearing. Both parties should get the opportunity to respond to the evidence against them. So, in all spheres of life it’s best to:

“Be kind, be fair, be honest, be true, and then all of these things will come back to you.”



Cook, Bertie

Class of 1937

It has been my experience that it is well worthwhile to invest significant time and effort in nurturing and maintaining good relationships with family and friends, as this support system, together with always maintaining a positive attitude, will prove invaluable in giving one the ability to cope with the many challenges life will inevitably send one’s way. Being an only child, I treasured the time I spent as a pupil and boarder at Muir College from 1932 to 1937, and I am forever grateful for the sound education I received and the valuable life skills I learned from the teaching staff and fellow pupils and boarders during that time.

As the oldest known Old Muirite alive, I am most thankful to be able to continue to connect to Muir College through the vibrant and effective Old Muirite Union, which keeps me updated on all the interesting developments at my old school.



Cowell, Simon

British Celebrity

***Learn how to take criticism,
follow your gut instincts,
and don't compromise.***

Cox, Roland

Class of 1987

Wow, there is a lifetime of wisdom out there, all to be personally experienced and savoured. For me, the most profound understanding I've gained is the importance of ongoing self-inquiry. Consistently exploring who you believe you are, physically, mentally and emotionally. The ***'I am ...'*** statements you make will generate your reality, and, hopefully, will become more expansive and empowering over time. It's the ultimate meta-skill - a super power even.



Crawford, Neil

*Former Headmaster,
Muir College and
Grey High School*



Each and every one of us has a power, and this power should not be underestimated. Some of us who are young might want to suggest that we have no power at all – you see yourself on the bottom rung of the ladder – but you are wrong! Everyone has enormous power and the important thing is the need to learn how to use this power for our own good and for the good of others. Yes – you even have the power to grant life! On seeing an insect, you have the power to squash it or to let it live. Your decision will be determined by your attitude towards the insect and by your own general character and mood. You have the power to let things live or die. You have the power to influence others – for example, if you were to go up to someone and smile at them and greet them, there is a very real chance that you will influence the other person to smile and to greet back. You can also do things that have the reverse effect. Bullies tend to think that they have great power. With a few hurtful words they can cause a dramatic reaction in others, including tears and even depression. This is 'power', and some idiots get 'high' on this behaviour, because it is their form of negative power. This is why one of the best ways to deal with bullies is to ignore them – and ultimately to eradicate them! The power we have to transform the morale and well-being of others is enormous.

A warm word of greeting, a kind comment, and effort to include them, can change their lives! Let no one say that they have no power when there are those about them whose lives can be positively changed by just a few words of encouragement. Armed with only a few razor blades, a group of terrorists can organise and manipulate events so that aeroplanes fly into buildings and change history. This is a terrible use of power – negative power. Just as awesome can be power that is used creatively. And so leadership is all about the exercise of power – the question is not whether we have power; the question is how do we use our power? Is it used for good or for evil? Is it used negatively for our own purposes, or is it used for the advancement and betterment of others? I trust that Muir will continue to produce respected and admired leaders who will be long remembered for their positive contributions to their beloved school and to society.

Cuyler, Craig

Class of 1996

In a world that demands us to fit into a particular mould at times, it is important to remain authentic. Authentic - not only in the face of others, but also to yourself. Decide what you believe and trust yourself enough to live out those beliefs in the best way possible.



De Kock, Rochelle

Editor, The Herald



At this juncture in your life, you will be required to make many important decisions about your future. And right now, you may feel like you do not have all the answers and you end up choosing a career path for the sake of merely making a decision, or to please your family, and not because you feel passionate about it.

My advice is that it is okay to not have it all figured out just yet. It is okay if you change your mind a few times until you get it right. You will spend a good few years questioning your purpose, your role in society, and the good news is that it is part of the process. While you are figuring it out, do not forget to learn from your journey - live, laugh, make mistakes and cherish the lessons you learn. As you begin a new chapter in this book called life, do not forget to make every decision with purpose and passion. Leave every space you've occupied better than it was. I wish you the very best ahead.

Dick, Siyolo

Class of 1996

***None of us is
as smart as
all of us***

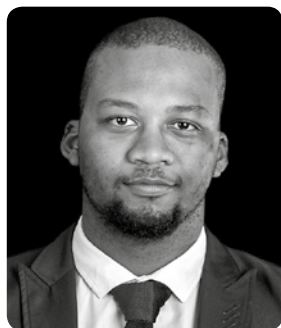


Dladla, Khanya

Class of 2011

***“Consistency
Compounds.”***

***Ease is a greater
threat to progress than
hardship. Always should be
striving, keep showing up.***



Doria, Leo

Honorary Life

Vice President



***Learn from every
opportunity. Never stop
learning, no matter how old
you get. Use every chance to learn,
whenever and wherever possible.
The moment you stop learning, you
are moving backwards. Keep working
on your knowledge, skills, attributes
and most importantly, your values.
Work towards what you want for
yourself and this will serve you well
and promote your chances of getting
what you want. Keep in mind we
all fall on occasions. If so, get up,
brush yourself off, learn from the
experience and work your way back
onto the right track.”***

Dotwana, Loyiso

*President of the
Nelson Mandela Bay
Business Chamber*



The world as we know it has changed dramatically over the last two years following the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, frequent climate change events and, more recently, the war in Ukraine. This has had a major impact on our country and our local economy and stakeholder collaboration to support common goals has become much more needed and powerful than ever before.

The NMB Business Chamber has embraced this thinking in its strategies and has begun a process of engagement with a broad spectrum of key stakeholders in business, politics, civic society and other significant forums with the primary objective of driving the resurgence of Nelson Mandela Bay. If we can work together as change agents, adopting an optimistic but realistic growth mindset based on shared values and interests, we can find solutions to many challenges in our environment. We are encouraged by the power of

public-private partnerships and know that if all the relevant stakeholders come together in an open and transparent manner to serve the best interests of the Metro and its people, new opportunities can be unlocked. It is all about taking the right actions – no matter how big or small – to generate and inspire positive results.

Du Plooy, Clayton

Class of 2005



Don't allow your passions to be suppressed by your fears. Find the career that will truly make you happy and pursue it. Hard work, persistence and consistency - live by those three concepts, and you won't regret it.

Du Toit, Kola

*Principal, Daniel Pienaar
Technical High School*

If I look back on my past and consider my mistakes, but also the positives which carried me in life, I would summarise my modest advice for life as follows: Live for the here and now, and cherish present moments. Prepare for tomorrow without developing an ulcer over what could go wrong. Forget about the mistakes of yesterday. You have learnt from them, so move on. Depend on courage/determination/guts, or whatever you may call it.

Life is not easy. Financial setbacks, career disappointments, and family/relationship crises may come your way. A tank full of fortitude and the belief that the sun will shine again, will help you pull through. Know that there is a Higher Hand and let that be the basis of your moral fibre.

Dyan, Vuyolwetu

Class of 2007



Feel the fear and do it anyway. This goes for every aspect of one's life both private and professionally.

Elferink, Glen

Class of 1991



My mantra has, for many years, been a rather profound quote by the great American author Mark Twain:

“Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect.”

While this quote applies to so many facets of life – including the toxicity of the upswept masses on social media – it carries further depth of interpretation, experienced in my active work life to date. In the corporate world, young, educated people come into an environment where they expect mentors, leaders and managers to develop them and to plan a path to higher levels up the corporate food chain. Water-cooler talk amongst those new to an organisation always follows the same pattern: “This company does nothing for me” and “My boss hasn’t got a plan for me”. Well, bad news campers!

It isn’t the company, your boss or mentor’s job to take action. It is yours! That is not to say that their words won’t provide insight, but they won’t be taking steps on your behalf. One person and one person alone is responsible for mapping out the journey, visualising goals and actively carving a career path – you! Go and get ‘em!”

Else, Peter

*Class of 1986,
Chairman of the School
Governing Body*



If you do your best and your best is not good enough, don’t give up or become overwhelmed thinking that you are not capable or good enough. Rather become better than you were, try harder and become more relentless in your goal. Then you might be very surprised at what you are really capable of and what you might achieve. When you increase your boundaries (which are often psychological constructs based on past experiences) your previous best becomes better, and your outlook more positive and energized. Now you are truly able to achieve beyond your previous limitations and be successful. Much like an athlete, your present best becomes your previous best as you apply yourself and work harder, stretching beyond what you were capable of doing a year, a month or a week ago.

**Emmerson,
Wesley-Jon**

Class of 2006



***Go out
and meet people,
because that one
random person you
meet could be your
future wife, business
partner
or best friend.***

Emmerson, Noleen

Muir College Secretary

I come from a sporting family and have played many sports, including gymnastics, tennis, hockey, squash, and softball - to name but a few. Those that I enjoy the most are the team sports. You have to learn to use each other and not do things yourself.

You become one. The comradeship you share with your fellow players is something special. It teaches you respect for each other in their abilities and your own, on and off the field. You must always encourage those around you. If they are not as good as you, praise them for trying. Offer to help them improve. If they are better than you, congratulate them on their achievements. Always strive to do the best you can in whatever you do. Most importantly, enjoy yourself and have fun.

Van der Ryst, Janse

*Head of Queen's College
Boys' High School*



Self-belief and authenticity are important for ensuring a life of significance. The quote, ***"People are born original but most die copies"*** springs to mind when I reflect on this important message to the young men of Muir College.

To believe that you are original and that you will only be your best when you live your authenticity unapologetically. Your biggest hurdle will be your own insecurities and even your ignorances. This hurdle causes many to fall, stop and give up.

Be content that you are enough, fullstop; and start working daily on developing your unique gifts and talents. Try harder every day. Your growth will be exponential and the results will convince you that your journey is as exciting as any other's. You have to be mature enough not to be small and compare yourself with others and be patient to afford yourself the time to grow.

May you stay second to none. Carry on, carry on, carry on....;
The good name of The Muir.

I thank you.

Ferreira, Paula

*Chair of the Muir College
PTA 2022*



I think one of the most important life lessons that I can pass on to anyone, whether they are setting out on life's path, or in their mature life walk, would be to believe in yourself! Trust your judgements, trust your heart and your intuition. By seeking information and being open to learning new things, any challenge or opportunity is acceptable. If you can go out into the world with self-love and confidence, you can conquer anything you set your heart to. Being able to navigate life with your positive mindset and determination can only be rewarded in blessings. Sure, there will be hiccups along the way, but turn them into lessons learned. You will never know if something was meant for you if you never give it a chance. Being able to count on yourself and not other's opinions, is such a personal victory in itself. There is a wonderful American Indian quote by Gianni Crow that I love, ***"Grandfather says: When you feel powerless that's because you stopped listening to your own heart, that's where power comes from"***.

Fourie, Justin

Class of 2008



You can Google all you want. You learn in life by doing and listening to the wisdom of those who have done it before you. We have the choice to take lessons from that wisdom and do things in our unique way. I have learned that there is no set way to approach life – we need to be adaptable and to find a way that best serves us and our aspirations in life. If you look after yourself, you will have the ability to support those closest to you. It's not foolproof, but I have done my best to follow these principles: Have NO zero-days – do something productive every day, even if it is something small. There are no easy paths in life, so there should be no easy days. Always seek to improve yourself. Change is a part of life: we need to accept that and accept that it is not always a bad thing. We have a responsibility to see the positive in any change, even when it is not obvious at first. TRUST the process, life is changing things for a reason - new doors open when old ones are closed. Be open to new ideas/opinions/cultures – you might just learn something and become a better version of yourself. You are not always right, and you have never finished learning from the world and the people around you. Lastly, but also very importantly, be a GOOD human being. You are not better than the next person, we are all different and capable of amazing things in our own way. Don't be too quick to judge a person before you have taken the time to walk in their shoes. Be kind, be compassionate, be the best version of yourself.

Be 'Second to None'.

Francis, David

Deputy Headmaster of Muir College 2022



Be passionate about you, and about what you do. That way you will never stop learning and growing. Be patient - it allows you to overcome problems at work and in your life.

Freeman, Morgan

Actor

I have to remind myself that some birds aren't meant to be caged. Their feathers are just too bright. And when they fly away, the part of you that knows it was a win to lock them up does rejoice.

Frew, Paul

Class of 1991

There are many factors that contribute to creating a successful and well-rounded life, while a slight setback in one area easily overshadows all other gains.



Connections: Spiritually, family and friends are the foundation for a successful life. Quality time is the currency in this department. Losses in this area can be devastating, while the rewards are rich.

Health: When we are young, we feel bulletproof, but our physical health doesn't last forever. Rather than playing catch-up later, it's worthwhile to practice now those things that will keep us healthy long into the future.

Career: Success here is all about playing to our strengths. It means showing up, being prepared, doing our best, and getting along with others. Reading is the turbo-drive button for career success.

Finances: Finally, if we budget, save, invest and give - diligently and early on - it sets us up for a life of financial empowerment, and that in turn supports success in all other areas of our lives. Laying a foundation of connections, maintaining our physical health, building career success and being intentional on your financial journey will all help to build a successful, well-rounded life.

Frew, Peter John

Class of 1988

I think a healthy state of mind is found in being aware of our weakness and fallibility, while remaining stubbornly confident of our potential.



Buli G

*Local Radio
& TV Personality, Singer*



To the best of your ability, you must foster good relationships from the start of your career. Peer recognition is a valuable commodity and as you advance, you will always have witnesses to vouch for your excellence and ethics.

Gates, Shane

*Japanese National
Rugby Team
& Class of 2010*



Manners matter.

At Muir College we always followed the simple principle that manners maketh a man, and I've carried that lesson with me through my adult life. Whether it's to family, friends, colleagues or even complete strangers, manners always matter. Having been in Japan for the last six years, I understand what it's like to have language barriers, but I've always felt that manners and respect for others speak a universal language that will always leave a lasting impression on people. Never underestimate the values taught at Muir College and always be proud to be a Muirite.

Geldenhuis, Albe

*Olympic Wrestler and
Founder of Ultimate
Sports Nutrition (USN)*



It was never my plan to build a business or to become an entrepreneur. I never believed that I had the ability to do that. To me, the business world was intimidating, I had little financial resources and I had no business experience, but I've always had a love for fitness and for creativity. I followed my passion; I wanted to share my knowledge and to get my product into the hands of all my fitness friends to help them experience the same amazing results as myself. I started really small, I filled containers with creatine at home and slowly but surely my passion was turning into a small business. So many people are afraid to get started because they think they need a lot to build a business. Don't be afraid to start small: it gives you an opportunity to learn and to make small, inexpensive mistakes and when you get it right, you can scale it up.

Money is not your solution, hard work day in and day out, and a very good understanding of your consumer market is much more important to build something great by starting small.

George, Georgiou

Senior Pastor,
Father's House Church



Muir's 200-year anniversary celebration – the rest is history. If you believe all that's said about it, you might come to think of time as having a personality, that it can test things to see if they stand, that time is some kind of wound-healer. We mark it, live by a schedule, and no-doubt all have wondered if we're running out of it. Our capacity for time and its management is a great measure of our capacity for leadership. Like any resource, it must be deployed diligently. Here are some lessons learned from the texts of the Holy Book that will help us hold the times at hand in a healthy way. Time is impatient, it runs even if you don't. It's best that we keep up with it – better yet, master it. Time is immersive. We're tempted to forget that **"just for now"** can become forever. Find ways to slow time down. Take time out for the immeasurable, for loving, for adventure and for spiritual health. The leadership ingredient you're looking for here is meaning. Time is indiscriminate. Like the rain falling on the righteous and unrighteous alike, we are each given the same day. We don't, however, all experience the day the same way. The differences come down to motivation. *The Good Book puts it this way, 'that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.'* Romans 13: 11 (NIV) Live large, leave a legacy and land on your feet.
Congratulations on Muir's first 200 years.

Giese, Alan

Class of 1966



Congratulations, you are at the end of your school career, which you more than likely thought was an eternity. Having left Muir College in 1966, and now being semi-retired, I have experienced enough to let you know that was not an eternity, it was a mere split second in your journey through life. Before you know it, you will be a senior citizen reflecting on the years that have sped past, thinking, ***"if only I knew... "***

I am going to try and impart some of the wisdom I have acquired. The regrets are imbedded in my message, and I will keep them to myself. Life just moved too fast ...

Confidence:

Lack of confidence can be an inhibitor, both in the workplace and socially. But you can improve this by becoming involved in various activities, be it in your church, service clubs such as Lions, and Rotary, playing sport, etc. There are a myriad of organisations waiting for you. And let's not forget the OMU! Gradually the interaction will increase your confidence.

Skills:

Besides the ability to read and write, computer literacy has become essential in the last 25 years. A working knowledge of Microsoft products such as Windows, Outlook, Word, Excel and PowerPoint will assist your career, be it in the office or the factory.

Workplace behaviour:

Most of the remainder of your life will be spent at your workplace. Correct behaviour will make this more rewarding. Punctuality, dress code, communicating respectfully (both with your superiors and subordinates), honesty, a positive attitude, avoiding office gossip, helping others when they're under pressure – these are notable assets which your superiors will notice and could come into consideration when staff numbers have to be decreased.

Finally, your future is in your hands. Do not look backwards and blame the past. The past is not going to help you. You have to move forward, both for your own good and that of your immediate family. Remember, you are the leader and they will be looking to you for guidance and assistance.

Goodall, Baroness Jane

Primatologist and Anthropologist

I think empathy is really important, and I think only when our clever brain and our human heart work together in harmony can we achieve our full potential.

Goosen, Bjorn

Class of 1999

Congratulations to the matriculants and to your families and teachers who have supported you in achieving this milestone in your life.

I sincerely wish you all the best in your future endeavours. A brief lesson that I'd like to share is to surround yourself with positive and like-minded people who add value to your personal life and career - and also to pass on your knowledge and experience to others. Another important lesson I have learned is to remain inquisitive, and this will surely propel you to push your boundaries on so many levels. I wish my fellow Muirites all the best!

Gouws, Lyntin

*Hostel Master,
Muir College Teacher
and Class of 1998*



Disappointment in life.

We plan, set goals and objectives for ourselves in order to have a successful future. However, life happens and we need to re-evaluate ourselves. This process will be constant until we find our paths. We will attempt job interview after job interview to get a foot in the door. All we need is that one opportunity to prove ourselves. Eventually that opportunity will arise, but it might not be the one we had in mind. Nevertheless, we will work hard, be loyal and give so much in order to better ourselves for the future. We strive for promotion but get turned down.

We want to give up, are tired and no one sees our value. Giving up is not an option! Perseverance is the answer, because all those little disappointments would have made us stronger. We are uncertain about why life has put us in the situation we are currently in. We start to question our abilities and worth. But ... we need to carry on as God has a plan for us. We don't know now what that plan is, but it is out there.

Not today, not next week and possibly not next month, but one day we will look back and reflect on our path and understand why we had to go through all those disappointments. God's time is not our time.

We should be humbled through our disappointments; we need to step up and learn from our mistakes. This builds our character and allows us to develop our inner strength. Do not burn your bridges as you never know if you will need those support systems on the path to further success. However, we might be standing on the wrong bridge or following the wrong path looking at someone else's scenery. So, when we do burn a bridge ensure that fire lights the path to YOUR success in the future.

Hamp-Adams, Jonathan

Class of 1989



I follow two principles in life:

Seek God's wisdom, grace and understanding. Strive to always have a positive impact on your environment and never, never, ever give up!

My leadership principles are;

***Passion > Trust > Innovation.
Be present, be passionate, be nice – build trust,
never give up, and be innovative.***

Hamp-Adams, Neil

Class of 1987

After school, my younger brother, Jonathan

suggested that I read

“Rich Dad Poor Dad” by Robert T. Kiyosaki.

I didn’t at the time but I realized later what a simple, yet extremely important piece of

advice that was. And so now, my advice to

YOU is to go out, buy the book and

read it before you start earning.

It will change your life!



Harrison, Carl

Class of 1988

Respect people for who they are, not for their job titles.



Hart, Roger

Ex Teacher at Muir College

***“Good name in man and woman, dear my lord,
Is the immediate jewel of their souls.***

Who steals my purse steals trash:

’tis something, nothing;

***’Twas mine, ’tis his, and has been slave
to thousands,”***

- William Shakespeare, Othello

Your reputation is invaluable.

***“This is the excellent foppery of the world, that,
when we are sick in fortune, often the surfeit
of our own behaviour, we make guilty of our
disasters the sun, the moon, and the stars:
as if we were villains by necessity; fools by
heavenly compulsion; knaves, thieves, and
treachers, by spherical predominance; ...”***

- William Shakespeare, King Lear

You are responsible for your own actions.

***"Life's but a walking shadow; a poor player,
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,
And then is heard no more. It is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing."***

- William Shakespeare, Macbeth

You alone bring value to your life,
or not – it is your choice.

***"Look thou character. Give thy thoughts no tongue,
Nor any unproportioned thought his act.
Be thou familiar but by no means vulgar.
Those friends thou hast, and their adoption tried,
Grapple them unto thy soul with hoops of steel,
But do not dull thy palm with entertainment
Of each new-hatched, unfledged comrade. ...
Give every man thy ear but few thy voice.
Take each man's censure but reserve thy judgment. ...
Neither a borrower nor a lender be;
For loan oft loses both itself and friend,
And borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry.
This above all: to thine own self be true.
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man."***

- William Shakespeare, Hamlet

You need to exercise good judgement.

Harth, Neil

Class of 1998



***It's an old cliché –
"it's not what you know,
but who you know!"***

*As fellow Muirites, don't be shy
to reach out and ask for help and
interact with everyone around you.
You will be surprised to see how
people can help out if you just ask.
Engage in social interactions with
everyone around you. This includes
your barber, the petrol attendant,
neighbours or even the grocery till
packer.... You never know when they
could roll a stone out your path or
vice versa.*

Hartley, Rose

Ex Teacher at Muir College

A few days before the Valedictory Service at Muir College, the matrices would ask the members of staff to sign their shirts, and for many I wrote, ***“While reaching for the stars, keep your feet on the ground.”*** Everything in your life ahead can be affected by the choices you make. If you want different results, you need to make different choices. A very important decision that you must make while still at school concerns your choice of subjects. Your choice of subjects could affect your choice of a career. Find out as much as you can before making your choice of subjects. The choice of a career is also an extremely important decision to make. Any decisions that are made regarding your future after school must ultimately be your decision. Do research, seek advice and guidance. Be realistic.

As you walk down the path towards the Memorial Gates after the Valedictory Service, you will have the next stage of your life ahead of you. More decisions will have to be made. Always be true to yourself. Never forget the time you spent at this great school.

“Nec Pluribus Impar!”

Hassel, Clive

*Immediate Past President
of the Rotary Club of
Uitenhage South*



You always have two choices, what you want to do and what you think you are ought to do. In another way, what your brain says and what your heart says are not always the same thing. If you choose the wrong one for life’s chosen career, you might end up rich, but will you wake up every morning happy and eager to face the day? As you leave Muir and embark on the next phase of your education, don’t always get concerned about the “ought”. My advice would always be to go for the “want”, and then make it happen.

Hermans, Frans

Class of 2010

*Don't be discouraged. You might walk out of the school gates not knowing what to do next. You might not have it all figured out. It's ok! Whatever you attempt, whether it be your next study path or your next job: do not overthink it. You will achieve greatness. Failure will discourage you, but don't be dismayed. Make it work for you and let your past mistakes and failures teach you, shape you and strengthen you to survive in the future. **"Improvidus, apto quod victim"** – Improvise, adapt, and overcome. Failure is temporary, Greatness is eternal. **Second to None - "Nec Pluribus Impar"***

Hewett, Roy

Class of 1969



In the journey of life we are not given guarantees, but significantly, we do have considerable sway in the attitudes we adopt, the habits we form and the friendships we develop.

The environmental givens of family, location and formal education are clearly central and defining in many ways: the most fortunate amongst us are those for whom these determining factors blend in positive synergies to produce upstanding citizens of the world. Muir College, as one of the oldest schools in our country, will always stand out for its quality education, friendships forged, the camaraderie of a relatively small institution and connections made that last for a lifetime. The privilege of having attended Muir becomes increasingly apparent as we traverse that journey of life. We should never take for granted our life lessons, values and leadership development linked to those attitudes, habits and friendships developed at our Alma Mater. Integrity in all dealings should be our guiding light as we take on positions of leadership at different levels.

Heynes, Ross

Class of 2008



Men of Muir, as I look back to my school days at Muir College, I have the fondest memories of sports tours, “touchies” during break time on the rock-hard Ellis field and banter between the boys. Spending time daily with fellow pupils, teammates and friends, you don’t realise it, but you build such a strong bond and brotherhood that last for decades! Enjoy the full experience and take every bit in.

Hilliard-Lomas, Lance

Class of 1988



*Life is a rollercoaster, only you, armed with an amazing school experience from Muir can make the decisions to season these ups and downs with tenacity, endurance and a **never-give-up attitude**. Remember that your attitude determines your altitude. Take nothing for granted, do not ever feel entitled: rather develop a deep humanity and respect for life and its prayers, both good and bad, as you will learn from them all. Strive to only be your best at all times and embrace change and challenge. It will keep you awake and on your toes. **You can be the best you!***

Hopley, Bun

*Headmaster of
Muir College,
2002 - 2015*



Don't sweat the small stuff. Focus on those things that are important and that you need to do. ***"Procrastination is the thief of time."*** Do what needs to be done promptly and to the best of your ability. Don't keep people waiting and meet deadlines. That way we don't put unnecessary stress on ourselves and everyone is happy. The years 2020 and 2021 have taught us a lot about what we thought we knew, about what is ***"normal"***, ***"acceptable"***, ***"right"*** and ***"wrong"***. Lessons learned: It is important that we allow ourselves, our family, children, friends and all other human beings the opportunity of both a rock-solid upbringing and education. (They are very different concepts). Listen eagerly and quickly, but react or act with consideration. Allow others to put their point across. We all appear both intelligent when operating in our natural habitat and less intelligent when operating outside of our natural habitat. This does not make a person either clever or stupid – it makes them effective in their own right. Don't hold on to ***"baggage"*** from the past – it makes you tired, and less likely to succeed in your current environment. Learn from history (failure and success) – it is not ours to change! It is ours to amend going forward. Perception is reality! Most people are the product of their closest family/friends/associates. You already have an advantage if you are reading this!

Irving, Scott

Class of 1989



When you finish school there are so many different opportunities in front of you. You will be asked many questions by friends and family. Sometimes you yourself are not sure of what you want. You may get questions and comments such as: ***Where and what are you going to study? Are you taking a gap year, and is that a good idea? Should you get a job straight away?*** Everyone is different and wants different things, the question you have to ask yourself is:

"What do I want and how do I get there?"

Here are some of the things I regularly check in on to keep me on track: *Know who you are - find your own style, don't copy someone else. Know your values - this will determine who you are and what type of career you choose. Know your purpose - this is where you will have high focus and determine what drives you to get up in the morning, day after day. Self-development - spend time every day working on you. Have a mentor - someone that you can check in with and guide you. Act with integrity - especially when nobody is looking. Be kind - act with compassion every day. When in doubt - think. Trust your gut - if it doesn't feel right, it's not the best way. To predict the future, is to create it yourself. Lastly, there are no self-made millionaires - they need others to help them get there!*

Jack, Mkhuseli (Khusta)

*MMC for Economic Development
Tourism and Agriculture*

I am joining the multitudes of South Africans who celebrate Muir College's 200 years of existence of giving quality education and instilling excellence in many young men over the years. Muir College, being rooted in our province and Metro, was a knowledge production space for people who excelled in leadership roles, in academia, business, politics, sport and in numerous other professions that serve humanity. There is no doubt in my mind, judging by the long list of luminaries that graced Muir College over the years that it stood amongst the world's best, giving meaning to the school's motto of Nec Pluribus Impar – Second to None. Congratulations to Muir College on its 200th anniversary.

Jackson, Samuel L

American film & television actor

All movies aren't fun; some are hard work. You try to do something and convey a set of emotions that have to do with some real-life kind of stuff.

Jeeva, Munir

Class of 2002



Don't let past mistakes make you lose hope of achieving good. Some of those with the worst past have made a great future for themselves.

Jekels, Dayne

Class of 2002

Dear Fellow Muirites:

Difficult Roads often lead to the most Beautiful Destinations.

So be patient with yourself and relish the lessons you learn on this journey we call **LIFE!!** Embrace the values instilled in you by Muir College and apply these in your daily lives to be the **BEST** you could possibly be. Be an ordinary person that changes the world by doing extraordinary things!



Jikani, Sango

Class of 2007

Chris Grosser wrote:

"Opportunities don't happen, you create them."

Everything that you have learnt and will continue to learn won't always open doors for you. The knowledge and skills you have acquired and/or will are merely steppingstones for progression in life and career. It is up to you to use those skills and knowledge to create opportunities for yourself.



Jobs, Steve

Founder of Apple

Design is not just what it looks like and feels like. Design is how it works.

Jonas, Ayabonga

*Muir College Teacher
and Class of 2010*



When we're young, our lives are governed by our imagination and the dreams we have. Most of those dreams are completely outrageous and make absolutely no sense. I remember being in pre-school with the wild dream of becoming a mad scientist – referencing my favourite TV show at the time.

As we grow up, most of those outrageous dreams start disappearing into the quiet places in our minds and we begin the journey of planning for the future. Before we know it, all the dreams we had are replaced by plans. I believe that one of the main functions of any good leader is to create the space for planning to fulfil dreams. Contrary to popular belief, it is your dreams and imagination that build the world. As Albert Einstein said, ***"Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere."***

Jonas, Dr Randall

*Nelson Mandela
University Business
School*



Navigating the leadership maze is complex because of the changing nature of society. The opportunity to lead in the evolving techno-human society is largely moored in our ability to adapt and not to be constrained by our current assumptions. Trust and truth are in a state of crisis worldwide, threatening peace and prosperity. Leaders must thus be discerning. Being in tune with context, feelings, attitudes, and values of those being led. Leaders are passionate about people. They represent an instrumentality for people, elevating them above their needs and wants, focusing on the worthy and switching on the power to find purpose in whatever they do. Ultimately, leadership is agency.

Jonas, Xolile

Class of 1991



I have learnt over the years to be patient and to understand that your turn will come.

That being said, it does not mean that you must not be vigilant to improve your life. Accept failure as a lesson and improve for the future.

Henman, Twane

Muir College Teacher



We are a product of our choices; and in this life there are two of these: the good ones and the bad ones. Always strive to make good choices - based on what you have been taught, what you know and who you are. These good choices will end up being the right ones for you - whose reasons and rewards will reveal themselves in good time. Real life, however, means that sometimes you will make bad choices, and if you do, know this: learn to deal with the consequences honourably and these too will hold lessons for the future you!

Jordan, Michael

American Sportsman

Be true to the game because the game will be true to you. If you try to shortcut the game, then the game will shortcut you. If you put forth the effort, good things will be bestowed upon you.

Kani, John

Award-winning South African actor

My stories are about humanity, about the challenge of surviving and the constant fight against ignorance, inhumanity and complacency.

Kardamilakis, Athanasios

Class of 2004



The one thing that I have learnt over the years is that no matter what situation you are in, be it in your personal or professional life, I try to remember and to impart on my colleagues and peers that, as true as the saying is that “there is no substitute for experience”, it is equally and even more true that “there is no substitute for being respectful and treating everyone equally”.

Both of these commodities cost nothing, but showing the same respect to a CEO or to an intern will separate you from your peers. Coupling your experience with these two qualities can only aid in building and moulding you into being a great leader.

Katz, Joel

Class of 1988

***“Some believe it is
GREAT POWER that
can hold evil in check.
But that is not what I have found.
I have found that it is the small
every-day deeds of ordinary folk
that keep the darkness at bay.
Small acts of kindness and love.”
– Gandalf***



Kelly, Kevin

Class of 1983

***Honest, ethical
business practices
breed great success!***



King, David

Class of 1980

As a journey through life,
we all make decisions which result
in outcomes that can have a
profound effect on our lives. This happens across
all spheres - relationships, jobs, where to live, or even
something as simple as a purchase of something or
other. One thing is certain - we will all make good
and bad decisions along the way.



*It is natural to reflect on some of our decisions and
wonder what would've happened if we'd made a
different decision at the time. If things have turned
out well, we pat ourselves on the back and reassure
ourselves that we have exercised good judgement
If things don't turn out well, sometimes regret sets in
and we beat ourselves up about what could have been.
In the worst cases, we suffer from long term regret,
which can be debilitating. It is empowering to replace
the emotion of regret with the perspective that you
have made the decision with the best will in the world.
Rather see yourself as someone who has learnt and
grown along the way than someone who may have
been better off making different choice.*

Kingwill, Ronnie

Class of 1970



In a statement I made 22 years ago for “366 reasons to live in South Africa in the new Millennium”, and which I believe still holds true for today, I would like to repeat this call in celebration of 200 years of the history of Muir College: “My contribution as an individual is based on the deep belief that the future is to be based on our ability to create economic growth opportunities. This must be done in a way in which we as business leaders take the lead in embracing every opportunity to create new jobs and promote the spirit of entrepreneurship”. This way we can create a future for the next generation and our children”.

Knott-Craig, Nolan

Class of 1984

There is a distinct difference between wisdom and knowledge. Gain as much knowledge as possible, then use it wisely.

Leadership: Lead through example, not through fear, A good leader uses all his or her gained wisdom to build future leaders.

Career: If the passion in your career fades and it becomes a “job” - change careers. Look after your own happiness first, then your career.

Life Experiences: Do everything and try everything at least once. Travel as much as you can when you are young - life is just too short to not enjoy it.

Family: Family is everything, they drive us insane, but without them, we are empty. Always respect your faith and parents. Love, respect and cherish your partner and children with every ounce of your being. Your children are also people - treat them with dignity. Encourage your children to have their own thoughts and their own individual creativity and, above all, listen to them when they speak, and you will be surprised by their insights into life.

Knott-Craig, Wendy

*Old Muirite Union
Manager*



*The world as we knew it
pre-Covid has changed.*

*Going forward, we will all need to work together
to introduce a new “normal” into the world,
which will ideally include looking after the
environment and each other.*

*Integrity within the business world is of utmost
importance – never lose this. Be a kind, caring
leader. Take others into consideration when making
big decisions. It’s not always about the money.*

Drink water, lots of water.

*Be nice to everyone, regardless of their status in life
– it’s the right thing to do.*

*Smile often and laugh hard as life is short and
laughter is important.*

*Love unconditionally and with your whole heart
as love is all we have when we leave this earth.*

Kolisi, Siya

*Rugby Captain of the winning
World Cup Springbok team 2019*

***“Umuntu ngumuntu
ngabantu” – that means
‘a person is a person
through other people’.***

*That’s how I believe I made it
in life. That’s what I believe in:
you need others to make it
in life. I don’t really believe
in the concept of ‘Self-Made’
– there are always people
making a difference in
your life.*

Kretschmer, Donovan

Class of 2010

“You must do the things you think you cannot”.

– Eleanor Roosevelt.



*As you enter this new and exciting chapter in your journey, I encourage you to challenge yourself to be the role model you looked up to, to keep chasing greatness and to live in recognition of the people around you. Remain compassionate and aspire to be an example to those coming after you. Be proud of your journey till now and never settle for mediocrity: you have been given the opportunity to be extraordinary. In the words of the great Marvin Williams – **“Conduct is the best indicator of character.”** My wish for you is that you remain second to none in every walk of life. Impact the world in ways that only you can and embrace the strengths with which God has blessed you.*

Kryiacou, Phytos

Class of 1989



My days as a Muirite are some of my fondest and most cherished, and have allowed me to attain a solid foundation in life. Ensure that you continue to build on this solid foundation in terms of your education - grow your knowledge base and skills set, and do not waste opportunities presented to you. Through my years I have come to realise that the following core principles have stood me well: there is no substitute for hard work – always give of your best, be disciplined and consistent in your efforts – these are the things, which, in my opinion, set apart mediocrity from excellence. Have faith in your ability - know your strengths, embrace and work on your weaknesses and always remain positive. Leading or managing can sometimes be a daunting task.

Develop the skills of good planning as this creates structure and allows you to set clear goals for yourself. In order to lead, always be humble, gracious, willing to learn and, most importantly, be a good listener and communicator.

There are limited hours in a day and only so much can be achieved, so be very selective of the opportunities and projects that you take on. Learn to prioritise more important things. Harness the collective effort of those working with you - keep them busy and focused. A collective effort will always achieve a greater result. We live in a dynamic world, so the ability to remain flexible and adapt is the key to success. Finally, aim to find a good balance between your personal and professional life, and your physical wellbeing.

Dalai Lama

Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader

Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them. Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.

Lategan, Chris

Class of 1994

While attending school, some people may shine, perform well and receive a lot of praise. Some of my friends didn't do that, but have gone on to be successful people. Always remember that you may be a late bloomer. You may not even enjoy school. You may take longer than your friends to find your place in the world. But if you consistently do what's right and always treat others kindly and with respect, you will succeed in the end.

**Liebenberg,
Leonard**

Class of 1988



Tenacity, commitment and positivity are a strong combination. Once you have made up your mind what your goal is attack it with gusto and positivity. Things will go wrong, but your positive attitude will allow you to identify the problems and find solutions. Keep focus on your goals, and you will achieve them.

Lolonga, Luntu

Class of 2002



Treasure the primary and secondary phases of your life and that is predominantly the school phase. Create networks within those spaces because those phases form an important part of a person's foundation. A great school experience is critical for a person to achieve in life, and Muir Boys College has set me up for many of my successes. Learn, enjoy, have friends (your net worth is your networks), and create a solid foundation to build your life on.

Mabi, Mbaso

Class of 2005

Chase fulfillment, not success. There is no bigger failure than a successful person who isn't happy. Happiness shouldn't be contingent upon success. Happiness is an internal choice that drives fulfillment irrespective of success or failure. Fulfillment is a state of being; success is merely an outcome.



Machel, Graca

Wife of the late President Nelson Mandela

As I speak now, right here on this continent, a child is dying of hunger in one of our villages. Such a tragic event happens every minute, every hour and every day.

Madonsela, Thuli

South African Advocate

Through life, I have learned that the most important critic whose judgement of my actions matters is my conscience.

Mafa, Nceba

Class of 2009

"It is not the size of the dog in the fight but the size of the fight in the dog" – Mark Twain. This is an adage with which most Muirites are very familiar. While in my schooling years, it was a maxim instilled in us by our headmaster, Mr Hopley. It encapsulates the very fabric of all that makes Muir great and synonymous with excellence. I have come to learn that resilience, and fortitude to never give up, even when circumstances suggest so, is at the very core of success. The motto "Nec Pluribus Impar" is apt for the ilk of men our great institution produces.



M-Afrika, Thoriso

*Muir College Marketer
and Survivor Castaway*



Always honour the commitments you make to yourself and others. People who follow through on what they commit to do are reliable, dependable and trustworthy.

Magongo, Mfundo

Class of 2005



Choices: Set goals and plan. But most importantly be patient. Your degree, business or starting a family might take longer than others. Rome was not built in a day and remember that life is a journey, not a race. Everyday a choice

must be made. Choose life and choose to be a blessing to those around you. A peaceful conscience and rolling up your sleeves is far greater than easy money. Life is about learning and growth. Don't ever think you are too clever to learn sound lessons from the people around you, whether they are rich or poor. Everyone has a story or lesson to share. There's truth in this statement: ***The people that we associate with (our friends, mentors, relatives) shape the person that we become.*** Your friends and associates will influence how you perform at school and varsity. They will influence your morals, lifestyle and the way you conduct your business. So, choose wisely.

Upon my return from initiation school as a young man, an elder shared an analogy of our manhood as an orange sack with a large hole the bottom. Then, he proceeded to ask me if I will be the type of man who assists to seal the hole. We do this by the choices we make. Your behaviour is a choice. The way you speak to people is a choice. The way you treat teachers is a choice. The way we treat females is a choice. The way we treat people in general is a choice. So, choose wisely and choose what is right, not what is popular. Remember to allow yourself to learn from your mistakes. No one is perfect. Don't condemn yourself and don't harden your heart. Seek help when you need it. No man is an island.

Makaza, Khaya

Class of 2001

*Muir not only offers quality education and extramural activities, but it also offers a boarding house facility. Being a former boarder at the NC Dugmore House and at the Sir Thomas Muir House, I learnt about punctuality from a very young age. Those rising bells, inspection bells, dinner bells, all the way to lights-out bells, still echo at the back of my mind when I have to meet day to day activities or work-related deadlines. Amongst other things, professionalism (neatness, good manners) was the order of the day at Muir College and this life-long skill is a necessity in any space that one enters. As a result, I am imparting these skills to my children, who also go to a traditional boys' and girls' schools. **"Nec Pluribus Impar."***



Mali, Sinethemba

Class of 2007

Whatever you do, do it to the best of your ability at all times, ensuring that you leave no room for regrets. Life passes by so quickly, make the most of every moment. The fastest runner doesn't always win the race, and the strongest warrior doesn't always win the battle. The wise sometimes go hungry, and the skillful are not necessarily wealthy. And those who are educated don't always lead successful lives. It is all decided by chance, by being in the right place at the right time. Lastly, make sure you owe no man anything but love. Godspeed, Men of Muir!



Mandela, Nelson

*Late President of South Africa
and World Icon*

***“Difficulties break some men,
but make others. No axe is
sharp enough to cut the soul of
a sinner who keeps on trying,
one armed with the hope that
he will rise even in the end.”***

Manitshana, Buntu

Class of 1999

*As long as you keep
waking up every day
you have a chance to
rewrite your own story, regardless of
your circumstances.*



Manlee, Mark

Class of 1988

You may encounter many life challenges, and when you are faced with these stay true to your values and beliefs. Be the person you want to meet and make the decision to be true, honest and respectful. Think of the consequences before you act and you will inevitably make the right choice. Share your best moments with your family and be present in everything you do. Take care to be mindful of how people feel and of their circumstances, because not everyone will be in the same position. People respond to kindness and honesty and respect, rather than arrogance and demand. Be a leader and an inspiration.



Manas, Leanne

TV Personality

***It is astonishing to realise that the human
species survived hundreds and thousands
of years, more than 99 percent of its time
on earth, with a life expectancy of only
eighteen years.***

Mapaling, Curwyn

Class of 2010



I remember when I was not accepted for what I had written under the “Plans for 2011”

section of the 2010 edition of The Muirite. I must have spent the whole week in my room, trying to gain the courage to face the disappointment. This experience taught me that it’s okay. We need to understand that we’re never going to be fully ready for change and all the ambiguity that comes with life.

Change is not something we can predict or be ready for; ambiguity is not something that is often easy to accept. Looking back, I certainly wasn’t ready. There is always a way to make a difference, despite what life throws at you, because you haven’t lost your voice amidst the complexity of life. Live authentically and don’t be a secondary character in your own story: play the lead role. Allow yourself to become undone as your story unfolds and then learn, unlearn, and re-learn as you continuously become.

Maqoma, Lungile

Class of 2002



Unfortunately, as humans we are designed to be creatures that learn and grow from our failures; instinct plays a very small role. It is therefore of utmost importance that we learn from them and not only see them as failures but as steppingstones, en route to being our best selves.

Maqwazima, Akhona

Class of 2000



Life is a series of ups and downs, a variety of seasons, summers and long winters. Deal with your downs with the same zest you deal with your ups, appreciate the winters as you do the summers. Maintaining such composure will allow you to always see the beauty of life and not to be just motivated but driven.

Mbini, Sonwabile

Class of 2020

Make the best of every situation and remember that the grass is greener where you water it most. Pour all your positive energy into every moment of your life and soon you will have a garden of great memories and achievements. May you reap all the rewards of all the hard work you put in and live a life that you will be proud of one day. I wish you all the best for your future.



McFarlane, Frank

Class of 1986

*My fellow Muirites. I urge you to be brave! To intentionally seek to be a man who does not take the path of least resistance, but rather dares to delay and confront the challenges and difficulties that life will present you with. A brave man chooses to do the right thing, which is often the tough thing, seldom the easy thing, but never the selfish or self-serving easy thing. He rather seeks what is the best for all, sometimes at his own cost. He seeks to be a servant leader. **Be courageous, accept the challenge, and choose to be BRAVE.***



McNaughton, Mike

Class of 1976

Business and your career are built as slow, patient processes. Yes, there are exceptions, but these rare, and when this happens, they write a book about you! The important thing is to set a vision and take enough time to regularly revisit that vision. It is imperative that you don't get caught up in day-to-day operational issues. You need to be the "captain of your ship" and spend time on the bridge understanding and plotting the journey, rather than the being in the "engine room" where you cannot see the horizon. Be patient, set your sub-goals to achieve your main strategic goal, celebrate victories and leverage your efforts on people more qualified and more competent than you are in the vital support function.



Education is made up of practical knowledge (the university of life) and theoretical knowledge (formal learning). One can achieve with one or the other, but it is so much easier when you have the privilege of both experiences. On a personal level I attended university late in life and began to understand the theoretical reasons why I did things on an operational level. It is a rare person indeed that has all the attributes to be successful, therefore do not be hesitant to put yourself in personally uncomfortable areas based on the need to learn and achieve what you wish to achieve on all the levels and in all the challenges life throws at you.

Meintjies, Ralph

*Past President of
the Rotary Club of
Uitenhage South*



*You are bespoke, unique and wonderfully made. Remember, “it is in your best you that you will step into the supernatural you.” In any situation pray: praying in love and humility teaches you that your circumstances can never, ever predict your outcome. Words are power, use them positively. Always aspire to inspire, and you will see what transpires. Your mind is your greatest tool on earth, after God. **Dream big, visualize and pen it.** The bigger your dream, the greater your dependency. Live for the purpose on purpose. The two most important days in your life are the day you were born and the day you find out why you were born. Be the change, live the change. The saying that the sky is the limit is a myth: there is a universe beyond the skies. I wish all matriculants a passionate, purpose-driven future.*

Meyer, Hantie

Muir College Teacher



***A winner is a loser
who just tried one
more time. Never,
never, EVER give up.***

Mgwali, Thabisile

Class of 2002



Life is filled with many joyful moments, and although there are days when we wish there was some guidance to follow, it simply wouldn't be the same without spontaneity.

The journey of life may not become easier as we grow older, but we do seem to understand it better as our perspectives evolve. Whether you're embarking on a new adventure right out of school, or you want to explore different paths in your personal life, it's never too late to change what the future looks like.

Miles, Craig

Class of 2003

Run your own race. We are all comparative by nature and too often find ourselves competing against our fellow man. I urge you to not compete in this race, as it will only lead to your unhappiness. Own your race. Stay in your lane. Race at your own pace! Aim to be a better version of you, a version that is 'Second to None.'



Mnqwazi, Olwam

*Managing Director
of the Black Hat Group*

Leadership is a form of social good that is mostly not theatrical like social evil.

It is mainly quiet, but impactful.

I have learned that being a leader is more than a position and being elevated above others; it is about the impression left in people's hearts, minds and lived experiences. It cannot be put on like clothes, but it comes from within. Influence and kindness change the lives of those served by their leaders. Good leadership strengthens the weakest among us, solves societal problems and emanates from the values and aspirations of the people. Leadership is an insignia more enduring than any outward symbol.



Momo, Lazola

Class of 2003

As I look back at the opportunities I have taken and where they have brought me so far, from school life to varsity life and now career life, I am most grateful for those opportunities. However, I wonder how far ahead I would be if I had made use of the other opportunities simply because I thought they were not for me, or I was scared. So, my advice is to make use of all the opportunities you get in life. They will give you exposure that will make you do things you probably thought you will not do, and that will also open other opportunities – and so the cycle goes on. You really have nothing to lose from using every opportunity that comes your way.



Moodley, Runeshan
Class of 2002



Opportunities come in many forms. For some, they come sooner than others. Opportunities only exist for those that are ready to take them. So, make sure you are doing everything possible to make the best use of yours as it could be your one chance to spread your wings and soar above the rest.

Msomi, Dudu
*CEO of Busara
Leadership Partners*



Leadership is not a position. It is a skill, an ability, and a competence. Leadership is the ability to direct, shape and influence the future to create a new and unknown reality. Therefore it is necessary for leaders to be visionary, even if they do not develop the vision themselves. A visionary leader helps you to visualise and believe in what is still not visible and obvious. The leader communicates consistently and with clarity that you, as a follower, start believing is possible. Leaders provide inspiration and motivation for where you are being led to as followers.

It is vision that inspires you to wake up in the morning, to tackle the tough tasks and to overcome challenges because you believe, through the motivation of the leader, that beyond the obstacles there is a better future that is worthwhile working towards. As a leader, ensure that you deserve the positions you occupy because your credibility begins with trust in your technical competence.

To be an effective leader, you must have technical competence and personal integrity. It is never, either/or – both are critical. Being a leader is a privilege, not a right or entitlement. People give you permission to lead them by giving you respect and listening to you. Do not abuse their trust by becoming selfish and enriching yourself, your family, and your network at the expense of the community. Money does not give lasting fulfilment. Creating a positive legacy that will survive, even when you are no longer living, is the most lasting honour you can give yourself and the generations to come after you. It is critical that as a leader you have integrity in terms of having alignment between what you say and what you do.

Therefore, you must live the values you espouse, even when it is not to your personal benefit. You must walk your talk. Do not expect people to accept what you say and ignore what you do. Both must be aligned. You must always have the courage to do the right thing, sometimes even to the disadvantage of yourself and your loved ones. Do what is good for society. Stay in school. This means never stop learning no matter how famous you become, how much positional power you yield because of the titles you have. Strive always to be better today than you were yesterday.

It is said that the only competency that matters in the 21st century with its exponential rate of change is that of continuous learning. It is important that as a leader you never rest on your laurels. You must never believe you know it all or that your position shields you. Remember always that, to be an effective leader, you require technical competence and personal integrity. Work at both consistently and continually throughout your lifetime.

Msutu, Lukhanyiso

Class of 1999



Don't underestimate the power of your thoughts and vision for your life.

These are irresistible forces that are able to transform what might appear to be unconquerable obstacles into traversable pathways and ever-expanding opportunities.

Muller, Hendrikus

*Member of the
Rotary Club of
Uitenhage South*



*Prove yourself
to yourself, not others.*

Murphy, Eddie

American Actor

*The advice I would
give to someone is
not to take anyone's
advice.*

Musk, Elon

Entrepreneur

*It's okay to have your eggs in one
basket, as long as you control
what happens to that basket.*

Mzalazala, Ntsika

Class of 2021

Being in a leadership position is not about you, it's about the people who put you there. This relates to a leadership style of service. A Muir College prefect has a duty to serve the interests of the learners and to protect the traditions of the school. Gone are the days where a leader was thought to be loud. Whether you are an extrovert or an introvert should not deter you from leading. I would not consider myself an extroverted person, but one thing that aided me in my leadership journey is the concept of respect. The respect you give is the respect you will receive. Be a team player. Communicate your ideas with your team. Hear and understand views from both sides, whether it's for or against a specific topic. Encourage everyone to give the best possible effort in whatever they do, but also maintain a positive environment in the team. Lastly, remain true to your values and your beliefs even when the world is against you.



Nadal, Rafael

Tennis Player

I learnt during my career to enjoy my suffering.

Naidoo, Vernon

VW Community Trust

1. Set clear boundaries – mentally, physically, spiritually and socially.
2. It is ok to say NO. There is no need to over-explain or to justify why you are saying no.
3. Focus on one goal and work at achieving it.
4. Family is the most important, and it matters. Find a lifelong partner with the same vision, morals and values as you.



5. Start investing now. Seek help from reputable advisors. Forget the get-rich-quick schemes – smart and hard work is the only way to earn an honest living.
 6. Never, ever, forget your roots. Help others as much as possible.
 7. Give! Give! Give! – This will help others find relief and you will be a blessing to the less fortunate.
 8. The right formal education is a key and it will open doors for you. Study what YOU love to do.
 9. When you fall, get up, dust yourself off, cry and start running again. Don't give up!
-

Naude, Andre

Ex Muir College Teacher

Life itself is a lesson. Believe in yourself and your ability to be successful, set goals, be patient and achieve them by taking small steps. Never give up striving to say that I am an individual who achieved my goals. Life is short, stay healthy and enjoy every moment.



Ndondo, Khaya

Class of 2004

Men of Muir! Life is a precious gift, be present in all its moments. Some moments will delight, some moments will produce fright. In all moments be the light, no need to dig deep, the light is you, always shining bright. This light will shine on your path and attract many things to you – good, bad, and in-between. I have learnt that the most underrated catalyst in one's toolbox of life is HOPE. Remember this: ***when you feel that you've come to the end of your rope, you're not at the end of HOPE. Never Lose HOPE!***



Nell, Darron

Class of 1998

People can question your talent, but never your effort.



Nelson, Lance

Class of 1988

“Nec Pluribus Impar” -

Second to None. I left Uitenhage and all my school friends after finishing matric finals in 1988 to be with my parents in Hermanus, Cape Town, and join the SA Naval Marines intake for my national service in January 1989. I remember sitting on the parade ground on the first day and not knowing a single soul amongst over 1000 boys, soon to become men very rapidly, until I met Donovan Carter who was also from the class of 1988. This is where ***“Second to None”*** became even clearer to me. ***“Dig deep Lance, you’ve got this”***, I kept repeating this to myself, over and over. I went on to finish my national service as an Ensign for the SA Naval Marine Corps. I kept the thought that ***“giving up is not an option, Second to None”*** very close to my heart throughout my working career, and still do today because it’s who we are as Muir Boys – we strive to be the best and will not settle for less. Thank you, Muir College, for keeping my feet firmly on the ground, and giving me the correct grounding and direction to start climbing the mountain of life with a positive attitude.



Nesi, Phakamani

Class of 2008

During my time spent at Muir College, one life lesson that stands out and was well reinforced was that of respecting not only your seniors, but everyone. This stands out for me as an important life lesson, not only in my private life, but also in the work environment. Showing respect not only costs you nothing, but it opens the doors to endless possibilities. In my experience, people tend to work with people whom they not only respect, but also respected them.



Noah, Trevor

South African Comedian, American TV Presenter

We live in a world where we don't see the ramifications of what we do to others because we don't live with them.

Nogcazi, Zingisa

Class of 2003

This is a message of encouragement for my fellow Muirites and all those needing a better perspective from which to view their own futures. Our school's motto calls upon us to stand '**Second to None**'. For you to get a better understanding of how powerful this motto is, let me explain to you that Muir gives you all the opportunities to be a well-rounded adult in the world. But it is up to you as an individual to take all the opportunities to play sport, participate in arts and culture, and to apply your mind to your classroom education. Because, if you take these opportunities, you will be able to stand tall anywhere in the world. For instance, I am from Ndongana Street, KwaNobuhle, and my Muir College foundation allows me to stand tall in global financial markets in investment banking at J.P. Morgan in Sydney, Australia today. So always be encouraged to keep your chin up and to roll with the punches of life's challenges, knowing that you are worthy and deserve the best in life, for you are indeed, "**Nec Pluribus Impar.**"



Nojoko, Patrick

Class of 1997

Walk your own path. People always judge others.
Peer pressure can make you stray from the path you started to carve your future. Don't mind other people's aspirations, don't ever let someone else's goals and dreams influence your vision of life. Don't hesitate when you should act. Good things don't come easy. If you want to have a good life with a successful career, emotional satisfaction and trustworthy friends, you have to work hard. Luck can only take you so far and the rest is entirely up to you.
Live and let live. Be flexible with your goals.
For every action, there's an equal opposite reaction.

Nopote, Mziyanda

Class of 1999

Whenever you feel it's time to act, take action. No matter the outcome, you will end up smarter than before.



Noqweka, Alexi

In the process of building all your dreams you will encounter challenges. All you need to do is to learn from them.

Nyoni, Alan

Class of 2006



Try to remember that we are our experiences, and how we respond to them, good or bad, influences how we will think, feel and behave in future. Therefore, carefully consider how you react now, positively or negatively, when life happens.

Owen, Warwick

Class of 1962

I grew up very quickly from 21, when I was appointed a foreman on the SAMAD (now VWSA) production floor – a tough place, not for sissies.

At an early stage we soon realised that follow-up was the key to success and that to keep a top set of records was a 'must do'. It was also important to be super reliable, honest, willing to admit mistakes and never feel sorry for yourself. Never be arrogant or overbearing. Crucially, always be conscious of time. Never be late for anything. When tasked with any project, do it justice with good preparation and research, and afterwards write a good closing report. Later, in the modern world, we were taught how to manage our PC input. Our mentor said: never be tempted to read the interesting mails first – always start and deal with the less important ones and get them out of the way – and send intelligent replies. Then only go to important ones and treat them as special. Another thing to remember is that any mail you receive must be answered within minutes of receiving it. You owe that respect to the sender. Even in this modern world, do not always rely on your cell phone as a backup – always keep a paper 'to do' list, and update regularly. Lastly, an unwritten rule – keep all your friends close to your heart and strive to stay in contact with them.



Ownhouse, Haydon

*Senior Pastor,
Elim Church*



*Jesus once said, “**I am the way, the truth and the life**”. There is only one way that leads people to heaven, and that’s the way leaders need to lead people too. God knows the way and, if I know God, I can lead people in that way. Leading by example is probably the most effective way to lead, and starts by being the true version of yourself. Honest leaders are easy to follow because their value is not found in the approval of people, but in the approval of God. One way you can find your life is to live it for the benefit of others. A life that will benefit your family, the community and future generations.*

*The reason we can enjoy 200 years of God’s grace is because leaders gave up their lives so that we may be beneficiaries of a glorious education. “**If you think you are a leader and you turn around and no one is following you, then you are simply out for a walk**”.*
(James M. Kouzes)

Pezi, Sandile

Class of 2004

As you venture out into the world, don't be afraid to be different. You will soon find that trying to be somebody else is exhausting, and being yourself is really underrated. The world needs that one thing only you can offer, so be you in the service of others to lead a meaningful life.



Phillip, Siba

Class of 2016

Small wins matter, it's about how you use your next 24 hours each day and making every hour count, doing what you need to do when you have to do it, and remaining consistent in putting in effort. All of that leads to your biggest achievements and milestones.



Pietersen, Roscoe

Senior footballer, Chippa United

Know your identity and your purpose. It's easy to become intimidated by our surroundings and to let our desire for acceptance control our actions.

Be mindful.

Be devoted.

Have intent.

Have gratitude.

Potgieter, Craig

Class of 1989



Have the courage to live a life true to yourself, rather than a life others expect of you. Draw a line in the sand and clarify what is important to YOU. If you don't have a clear purpose driving you forward, you will default to what other people approve of, and you will live a life of what others expect instead of what is true to yourself.

Be kind, it costs nothing, be generous and you will receive tenfold, be grateful and you will always be happy. Mistakes are fine – just don't make them twice. Finally, the most important lesson you can learn in life is not to worry about things that are out of your control. Rather focus your energy on what you can.

Potgieter, Glynn

Class of 2004



“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths”

- Proverbs 3: 3-6.

Quest, Richard

CNN Media Personality

*A question: **When is a bed not a bed?** When it is ‘angled lie-flat.’ My back hurts, my legs ache and my clothes are all rumpled – and all because the life airline, which claimed to have a bed, actually offered up a torture machine which I prefer to call a slide.*

Qukubana, Bahle

Class of 2015

Before anything else in life, take care of your emotions, be kind and patient with yourself and stay true to who you are and let no one take that away from you. Aspire to be something great in life, and forever chase greatness, refraining from putting time frames to things you want to achieve. Instead replace that with hope, consistency, patience and hard work. Yes, life is definitely not going to be easy on you going forward. You are going to be faced with a lot of challenges, but face them! Opportunities will be presented to you, so take them. Be wise, humble, hardworking and be filled with the spirit of a never-giving-up Lion, for that will lead you to a prosperous and successful life. Remember, you are 'Second to None' and you are capable.



Robey, Brent

Class of 1977

1. Good things don't come easy - work hard and play hard.
The saying 'all work and no play makes John a dull boy' is quite true.
2. Walk your own path - do what makes you happy.
You have your vision of life, don't let someone else's goals and dreams influence your vision.
3. Never fail to try more - keep trying and don't give up.
4. Take care of your health early by having a healthy lifestyle.
5. Make every moment count - live your life to the full.
You never know if there will be a tomorrow.
6. Have goals, but you need to be flexible with them.
7. Live and let live - don't force your ideas onto others.
Let those who want help and guidance come to you.
8. Don't hesitate when you should act - believe in yourself. He who hesitates is lost. Hesitation will keep you from moving forward.
9. Be prepared to make mistakes, everyone makes mistakes, but also be prepared to learn from your mistakes.



Schaberg, Bernd

Class of 1982



*More than 25 years in various leadership positions at Volkswagen have taught me many life lessons. The one that stands out is that **'You cannot change the past, you can only change the future.'** So don't waste energy and time in allocating blame and/or regretting poor actions and decisions from the past. Rather learn from your own mistakes, and the mistakes of others, and then focus on making good decisions and plans going forward.*

Schady, Howard

Class of 1980

Leadership, after more than 30 years in the corporate world, is about respect, trust and integrity. I have come across many different leadership attributes and the two that have left a lasting impression are:

1. When the going gets tough – look in the mirror.
 2. When things are going well, look out of the window and give credit to everyone around you.
-

Schuster, Leon

South African Comedian

In order to reach his destiny and have domination over the earth, man has to get wisdom.

September, Zaylin

Class of 2005

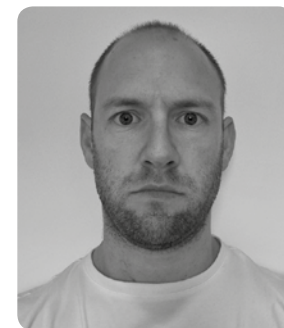
“I wish someone had told me this before I left school,” is what I have found myself saying to my wife on a few occasions. But if someone had told me then, I wouldn’t have gone through the process of learning and, better yet, understanding why those lessons needed to be imprinted on my very being in the first place. **Sacrifice:** the current life lesson I’m living through and one that will no doubt remain with me until the end. In order to advance in anything, you need to sacrifice. To advance even more, a still greater sacrifice is needed. It has been my experience that the sacrifices required are often the intangible things like the relationships with family and friends, time, peace of mind and the like. However, as with all things a balance must be reached and a firm plan towards your ambitions must be laid so that you don’t get lost on the way. You can be anything you want to be, have everything you ever wanted, but be prepared to sacrifice – but not too much, because once you’ve reached your goals you still want to be able to live with yourself and enjoy the fruits of your labour.



Serrao, Brent

Class of 2002

*Become more observant. Notice everything that surrounds you because the world is full of examples, ideas, wisdom and experiences. **Read, read a lot!** Reading is probably the best investment of time ever, therefore devote at least 30 minutes per day to reading. Analyse your day. Before going to bed, take 10 minutes to analyse what you did well and what you could have done better. **Discipline!** Discipline creates habits, habits create routine and routine will define your life. My last piece of advice is to take chances, move around and explore opportunities until you find what fits your life, skills and personality. **Never change who YOU are.***



Sharman, Robert

Class of 1971



As a Muir rugby player I seemed to spend more time on the ground, frequently under a pile of bodies, rather than on my feet. Then I'd pick myself up, dust myself down, and start all over again. That has been the pattern of my life - and it's a pattern with which most people become familiar as they grow increasingly independent of the support of their parents and siblings. With nobody around to lift you up, you need to be resilient and self-sufficient. No matter how carefully one plans one's life, one will encounter obstacles and setbacks. The only solution is to endure adversity and to persevere. Never give up!

I'm a fairly ordinary person, I've never been particularly talented at anything, but somehow I've survived and have been afforded moderate recognition, perhaps because I've tried to avoid a self-serving approach to life, and life has treated me well in return. Don't misunderstand me - there's nothing wrong with ambition, but an all-out approach of

'What's in it for me?' is the surest route to ultimate failure in life. Arrogance is another route to failure: try respect instead - respect for others, and respect yourself - and admit your mistakes.

My father once told me that our lives would be meaningless if we lived only for ourselves and that we should live our own lives in relation to others, not only those whom we know, but also for the many who will never know us. He was teaching me about what has become known as 'servant leadership', a concept that has served me well in many leadership positions I have held during my career. Looking back on my life, I realise that I have made many mistakes, that the obstacles to my success have frequently been of my own making, but I also have the satisfaction of knowing that in my own small way I may have made positive contributions to the lives of others.

"I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." (Stephen Grellet)

Singata, Asanda
Class of 1999



***Leadership
is hard to define and
great leadership
even harder. But if
you can get people
to follow you,
then you are a
great leader.***

Sixaso, Siphелеle
Class of 2000



Martin Luther King once said,
***“A true measure of a man is not how
he behaves in moments of comfort
and convenience, but how he stands
at times of controversy and challenges.”*** Life and growth
come in challenges and the ability to overcome them.
During these times when the country and the world is
facing global pandemics and unrest in historically peaceful
areas, inequality and poverty are ravaging the world,
especially our beloved country. True men are needed
to stand up! True men are needed to show the others
what could be, and true, mighty men of Muir are equal to
the task. The lessons learned at our alma mater are life
lessons that equip and have equipped us to navigate this
world and the uncertain future. One just needs to look
back at the glorious years, envision a prosperous future
and work hard to secure the life that one wishes for and
do more for on’s family, community and country. I am
proud to say that Muir College is that place that has for
the past 200 years equipped future leaders and will
continue to do so in the years to come. All one needs to
do is to believe in oneself. So, if a true measure of a man
is how one stands during challenges, then the mighty
men of Muir should be ready to be part of the solution.

Smith, Graeme

Class of 1988

As we journey through this adventure called life, we continually grow, develop and, like a good red wine, hopefully improve with age. For me there were a few key lessons that made all the difference in my journey – lessons that I would like to have learnt earlier, and my prayer for all of you, is that you will.

Lesson 1: ***“Your right to swing your fist, ends at your neighbor’s nose.”*** This is called the ***“Law of Neighbors”*** and implies that as much as we must all strive to live in freedom, our freedom cannot be at the cost of the freedom of those with whom we share this planet.

Lesson 2: There is a short cut to success: good, honest, systematic, unflinching and ethical hard work.

Lesson 3: We all need a passion, a purpose and a savior. Fortunately, these all come to us in one package, that is the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord, Savior, Brother and Friend. Living a life with eternal value and that benefits not only us, but everyone we interact with – this is the ultimate aim in life. As I like to say, ***“God had a plan and wrapped your body around it!”*** Find that plan and purpose, by finding Him.



Stear, Kieran

Headmistress, Riebeek College Girls’ High School

You have more control over your life than you think. Life is not just a haphazard happening of random events that control you. You have control over three things in your life – the thoughts you think, the images you visualize, and the actions you take. Spend time to reflect on what you want from life and what you want to achieve, and then plan a path for yourself to get there. We give away so much of our power to people we don’t even know. What I mean by that is that we expect the acceptance and approval of those people we don’t even know. We compare ourselves to the lives of those whom we perceive as being perfect even though we know that that’s not true of anyone.

To control your life, control what you pay attention to. Better attention management leads to improved productivity, but it’s about much more than checking things off on a ‘to do’ list. The ultimate result is the ability to create a life of choice, around things that are important to you. It’s more than just exercising focus.



*It's about taking control of your time and your priorities. Be very intentional in where you direct your attention and what you allow into yourself. In the end, what you choose to carry is your choice. If you want to find happiness, find gratitude. A simple shift from **"They have more than me"** to **"They did it, which means so can I"** is huge. The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts. Your attitude determines your altitude. You can have a negative attitude or a positive attitude – the choice is yours. Employing a positive attitude will help you to achieve your goals and make you a more likeable person. Be positive, have a great attitude and expect to succeed, and you will. A positive attitude gives you power over your circumstances instead of your circumstances having power over you. A strong and positive attitude creates more miracles than any other thing because life is 10% how you make it, and 90% how you take it.*

Stephenson, Gary

Class of 1981

Try to promote and practice good karma. We live in increasingly tough and violent times at present, and this is especially evident in South Africa.



The industrial world is hell-bent on automation and robotics in production and everyday life scenarios, and this is a huge factor contributing to unemployment and low family income throughout the world. Gone are the days when large manufacturers employed thousands of workers to build products. These days an automated line may need a few people to monitor and ensure stock is available, but quick turnaround, high quality and larger profits for shareholders are the goals. Is this really that important in the larger scheme of things, do we really need a drone to deliver a pizza at the expense of a job? Time will surely tell, as there can only be a backlash from the masses if something doesn't change.

Garth Wright and I founded a charity collecting funds around the Ironman races to try to assist in supporting the establishments that look after children that are either abandoned or orphaned in South Africa. The support from government is sparse and slow in coming. This has certainly opened my eyes to the plight of thousands of children in South Africa and abroad. We believe that by giving these kids love, support and the means to develop into better adults, we are hopefully contributing to a better community. My wish is that there will be a revolutionary spirit in the school leavers of today that will promote job creation, slow down automation, manage population growth and bring back the feeling that the government should serve the people. My thanks to Muir College for providing me with quality education, many great memories and lifelong friends.

Stephenson, Robin

Muir College Headmaster

Try to add value wherever you are by bringing freshness and vitality to the institution that you serve. The energy that you bring will be contagious and will reward you in the end.



Styles, Harry

Musician

If you're going to get into trouble for hitting someone, you might as well hit them hard.

Suarez, Ricardo

Class of 1988

Things don't come easy. You will need to leave your comfort zone once in a while to reach your goals. You have the best prerequisites as a Muir Boy to take on life's challenges! Whatever you choose next, choose something that you enjoy and choose it wisely. It does not have to be forever. You will still have the power to change it later, so make every moment count, be creative and never fail to try more.



Swart, Jurie

Class of 1983



Forgive me – I love telling stories and can be somewhat verbose, but this story is simply not the same if summarized. I often use the term

“intellectualising synergies by centralised command.”

I have thought long and hard about this, given my experiences with colleagues who shouldn't be leading, trying to direct and control every action within a business. As a young engineer I had a fairly profound experience which I have told fondly, but have never considered particularly relevant. I was a concrete man, building bridges and various other structural works. Teams and foremen worked well with me largely on the back of my willingness as a bursary student to roll up my sleeves and do physical work with the lowest-skilled labourer.

As a reward for performing relatively well, I was given a 14km road job to run on my own. This was problematic. I knew nothing about roads, earthworks and gravel materials. However, a good roads and earthworks machine operators' team would be made available to me. They were currently working under Mr X, then considered one of the top roads general foreman in Murray and Roberts, and Mr Y, a very experienced roads engineer.

(These guys were the best of breed and used every opportunity to tell the world this was so.) The trick was that these supervisors would not be coming along. A young surveyor, Solly Khumalo, and I set out the road alignment and levels, the borrow pits were tested and approved, and I nervously awaited the arrival of my ***“leaderless”*** group of operators. I had no clue how to go about building this road. This group was made up of Ta Frankie Modise, a sixty year old gang boss from Francistown; Israel Moeti, an excavator operator from cosmopolitan Soweto; Solomon Sefalafala, a grader operator from the KZN South Coast; Risco Kiva and Anderson Malgas, dump truck operators from Queenstown; Johannes Mashabane, a dump truck operator from Limpopo; Muso, a field mechanic from Malawi and three other truck drivers. They were later to be joined by Frank Moriri and Maxon Mathebula from Bushbuckridge who were two gang bosses who would take on the ancillary works (pipes, culverts and small concrete works) without ***“supervision”*** and effectively elevate themselves to foreman in the process. The team was made up of a Motswana, a Sowetan, a Zulu, two Xhosas, a Pedi, two Shangaans and a Malawian amongst others – a mix which had considerable potential for disagreement. My master plan, which came about entirely due to a lack of experience rather than any brilliance, was simple. I bought ten kilograms of meat, and when the guys arrived on site from their previous contract we lit a fire.

Whilst preparing the informal braai, I told them that I had no idea regarding how to go about this, that they had an average of 25 years of experience per man, that Solly and I had done the necessary, that the borrow pit had been tested – and I implored on them to do what they knew best. A quick bite from me (fortunately I still ate red meat then, because this may have damaged my credibility significantly), and I got into my bakkie, drove off and snuck up from the back of a high vantage point, a ‘koppie’, to observe. What followed was amazing. After what was clearly a short meeting with input of all the old hands putting any diversity aside, they sprung into action. Everything happened in the most logical and almost magical order. The result was that a team that had been working under a **“top supervisory team”** increased its productivity from an average of 26 loads per hour to an average of 42 loads per hour, **“unsupervised”**. Of course, Frankie was a strong leader in his own right, but this was never visible.

In short, all that was required was for the organisationally imposed hierarchy to get out of the way. My role was simply to be a logistical enabler. The result was that news spread rapidly throughout the industry, and we made the front cover of the Contractors magazine. Bell Equipment sent a team to come and analyze the extraordinary performance of their articulated dump trucks, we completed the job well ahead of time and budget,

two new foreman, previously confined to being gang bosses, emerged simply because they were allowed to perform, and I – perhaps unfairly – received an extraordinary bonus of three months’ salary. We worked at one stage for 72 days on the trot, from 6 to 6. Without prompting, never did we wait for a single person in the morning. Machines were up and running by 6am and never switched off for routine checks before 6pm. The team automatically had great common purpose, a purpose and productivity that no amount of senior management or consultant’s intervention could achieve. Motion was not mistaken for productive action. No one ever tried to justify their existence other than by output. They understood that I was part of the team, was willing to work the same hours and, from talking to other old-timers in the company, they knew I was willing to do manual labour, which stood me in great stead.

My conclusion: The greatest lesson one can learn is to be a servant leader. Become an enabler and get out of the way. There are very few human beings who do not want to operate at the very best of their ability.

Terblanche, Thomas

Class of 2008



Great leaders must be healthy humans. Remember that you are not leading robots, but fellow humans. Leader, check in with yourself from time to time and deal with toxic traits and unhealthy parts of your being, because often this manifests in your leadership and in the organization that you are leading. People are not projects. People are people.

Mother Teresa

Spiritual Figure

*If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives: **be kind anyway.** If you are successful, you will win some false friends and true enemies: **succeed anyway.** If you are honest and frank, people will try to cheat you: **be honest anyway.** What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight: **build anyway.** If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous of you: **be happy anyway.** The good you do today will often be forgotten by tomorrow: **do good anyway.** Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough: **give your best anyway.***

Theron, Charlize

*South African Grammy Award
Winning Actress*

***I don't believe in charmed lives.
I think that tragedy is part of the
lesson you learn to lift yourself up –
to pick yourself up and move on.***

Thomas, Nathan

Class of 2005

Whether in business, relationships or personal development, I still draw from what I learnt from my time at Muir. There is a clear standard of ***Nec Pluribus Impar*** that is ingrained in all Muirites I've had the pleasure to interact with, and I take great pride in being part of that. After school I took a keen interest in business where I've had the pleasure of leading teams across the world.



One thing that is always in the forefront of my mind that has helped me achieve in these positions, is always asking, ***“what value am I adding in this situation?”*** We should not take for granted our positions as businessmen, husbands and global citizens. The goal should be to leave what you are responsible for in a better state than when you found it.

Trenerry, Ernie

*Teacher at
Muir College*



***“Never let loyalty and
faithfulness leave you.
Tie them around your neck;
write them on the tablet of your
heart. Then you will find favour
and high regard in the sight of
God and man.”***

– Proverbs 3, Verses 3 to 4

Trenerry, Janice
Muir College Secretary



*Life is hard, but it'll
be much easier with
**a positive attitude (=100%)
and a heart of gratitude.**
Have fun between the dashes!*

Tutu, Archbishop Desmond
Religious Leader, Political Figure

***Do your little bit of good
where you are; it's those
little bits of good put
together that overwhelm
the world.***

**Van der Hoek,
Antonie**

Class of 1984



***"When one spreads one's
wings, be careful not to
lose your tail feathers."***

*In other words, growth and ambition
should not be unbridled.*

**Van Huyssteen,
Denise**

*CEO Nelson Mandela Bay
Business Chamber*

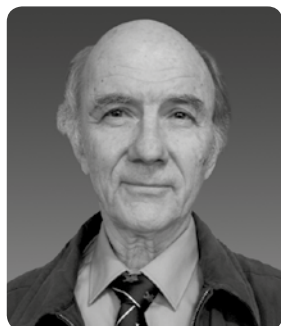


*It is during the most difficult
times that we learn and grow the most. Sometimes
things may happen which may seem unfair,
but may be just what we need to put ourselves on
a different path. Along with this journey of change
comes the opportunity to reinvent ourselves and
to find a new purpose in life.*

Van Renen, Charles

Class of 1963

Life lesson: Tradition and the individual.



Tradition: the word can mean different things, depending on how you look at it. Sometimes you might see it as a cluster of ceremonials and rituals having little bearing on modern life after school. But you can also view it as a way of carrying forward important and timeless values helped by an institution and passed on from generation to generation; values that can have a positive impact throughout life. Muir College is an outstanding example of a school whose character and spirit influence the lives of all who learn and teach there. While writing Shout till the Rafters Ring to mark the school's bicentenary, I felt privileged to have a 'bird's eye view' of the numerous decades in which Muirites collectively paid tribute to those who had gone before. Yes, it's the collective act of observing traditions that is important. It's what binds individuals together in honoring those whose deeds - and at times sacrifices - have contributed to making one's alma mater what it is and what it stands for in the wider world. Once pupils leave school, they are keen to carve out a future for themselves and explore new horizons as individuals.

This is essential, even if the newfound freedom often seems to create some distance between themselves and their old school. But with this freedom comes the responsibility to respect the rights and views of others, one of the important lessons learnt while at school. May your journey through life be blessed with many positive opportunities; and may the ethos you have absorbed at Muir College continue to serve as a standard against which, consciously and unconsciously, you measure important decisions and actions you may take in future.

Van Schoor, Eileen

Matron of Thomas Muir Hostel



***Be kind, work hard,
be humble, keep
honest, stay loyal, never stop
learning, be thankful always,
smile often and love well!***

Van Tonder, Kevin

Class of 1987

Leaving school is exciting, but it can be tough to find one's feet as you try to establish your independence.

The following five points have always helped me to focus on my North Star and live with purpose:

1. Don't expect a pat on the back. We should not only do things for tangible reward. Sometimes the experience alone, such as seeing someone smile or helping someone in need, is reason enough.
2. Have passion. If you do not have passion in life, business or your career, you will never be truly happy, which in my opinion equates to success.
3. Be responsible and do no harm. There is nothing that can justify getting ahead in life by hurting other people or the environment.
4. Continuously strive for improvement. If you are consistently working towards your goals, performance is cyclical. Some days you can do nothing wrong and on some days you're 'off'. There's no point in becoming frustrated. You just need to keep focused on your goal and work through it.
5. Embrace the suck. To progress you need to move out of your comfort zone. Embrace the discomfort as a learning experience.



Van der Westhuizen, Pierre

Class of 1969

When I joined the I.T. Industry in 1972 – archaic when compared to current times – I believed that I was embarking on a career that would change the world. Was I wrong? No. Have I ever regretted it? No. So my message to you is: Sometimes the smallest step in the right direction ends up being the biggest step of your life.



Veto, Nomnikelo

***Do the right thing when no one is looking.
It's called integrity.***

Vosloo, Arnold

South African Actor

Go after your dream, no matter how unattainable others think it is.

Wahl, Warren

Class of 2000

As we journey through life we are presented with numerous encounters on a daily basis. It may be in the form of social or formal interactions, with different people from different walks of life. Every encounter has a learning opportunity. We all experience trials and tribulations. Learn from your mistakes or those of others. Life is a tough teacher, so take the time to celebrate your accomplishments and learn from the success of others. As a proud South African I encourage you to “Steal”! Steal with your eyes and your ears, as every interaction affords you the opportunity to learn and grow. Be a good listener and don’t just pretend to hear what people say or do. There is an active difference between listening and hearing. Actions speak louder than words and body language is part of nonverbal communication. I encourage you to “do” and



not just talk about doing things. As you transition from a formal schooling environment to university or a working environment, you will soon realize that the world is a small place and you will meet people from different countries and cultures. It’s when you have these encounters, where you will be able to increase your understanding of how culture and global experiences influence the way people think and interact socially or professionally. Your ability to assimilate these encounters and make important deductions and meaningful links is what will make you a true Global Citizen and help you to navigate the world successfully. We are all lifelong learners and never stop learning. You have attended a great school, which is truly ‘Second to None’! Enjoy your journey through life and make every encounter count.

Wedderburn, Ricky

Class of 1977

Men of Muir College, your career at Muir is not only about you and your individual achievements. It is how you are learning and developing your values of trust, honesty, caring, courage, fairness and respect that builds everything around you - family, friends, teams, citizenship, business, society and a country with strong democratic values. You have the ability to recognise the signals and context by being guided by your principles – the same principles that Muir College has always held and shared with you on all levels.



Welman, Shaun

Class of 2005

Like me, I am sure that you have imagined what your life would be like and who you will be in 5, 10, or maybe 15 years from now. Perhaps you believe that you have already met your Ms/Mr Right and have mapped out your life path, or maybe you have not. Both are OK.

What aging will come to teach you is that life has its own plan, which likely will derail some or even most of your best-laid plans. Not following the original path doesn't mean that you have failed at life, it simply means that you have grown as a person and would have learned to become adaptable to life's challenges. Who you are right now does not matter as much as you may think. Right now you may not be a top academic achiever, a skilled sportsman, a prefect or a socialite.

This does not mean that you may never achieve greatness. Similarly, if you are one or all of these things, it does not guarantee future success.

Becoming an adult teaches you the value of hard work and the benefit of luck. Being an adult means figuring out who you are and not who other people think you should be. Remember to cut yourself some slack when things don't go your way, and always meet the responsibilities entrusted to you. Be cautious about comparing yourself to others: perspective is key. Run your race at your own pace and remember to enjoy the view along the way.



Wiid, Laurie

Class of 1985

When you are feeling strapped down by the pressures of the world, take a quiet moment to reflect on who you are and what you can change. Be patient as you seek the path to your own fulfilment. Always lean on your friends and family and be their anchor when you are strong. Our journey in life has many twists and turns, and sometimes we find ourselves in a cold or dark valley. Keep striving, be positive, stay focused and keep climbing, for if the mountain is steep. Know that the view from above will be worth the climb.



Wilkinson, Grant

Class of 1997

My fellow Muirites, it is hard to capture life lessons in this short space without sounding too anecdotal.

My simple message then to you is something that I was taught by a senior advocate in the high court in Port Elizabeth when he told the client, who in cross-examination had become too verbal, ***“Madam, you have two ears and one mouth. Use them in the same proportion”***. Looking back on my life and career, this is something that subconsciously I have applied throughout and when finding a phrase for how I do things, this is it: if you are the most intelligent person in the room, then you are in the wrong room, and if you are in the right room, listen actively, observe, learn and contribute effectively. Your learning continues throughout your career. Similarly with circumstances, listen actively and be observant. Opportunities do not come your way, you create opportunities by understanding the space and then creating. When the time comes to create and grab an opportunity, do so to the fullest. It is often when you feel the most discomfort that you experience the most growth. Never lose yourself and the values the school instilled in you. I will always be the ‘boykje’ from Uitenhage. I am who I am. Don’t lose your humility even if you find yourself amongst kings. I wish you well with your future.



Williams, Davon

Class of 2004

We all have a voice deep within calling us to a place that we have never been: that’s called destiny. Not everyone will understand the vision you have for your life and future, but that’s okay. Some places are better travelled with those that share the same vision.



Williams, Venus

Tennis Player

I don’t focus on what I’m up against. I focus on my goals and I try to ignore the rest.

Woods, Tiger
Professional Golfer

*The key is to
consistently put
yourself in a
position to win.*

Wright, Garth
*Ex Springbok Rugby Player
and Class of 1981*

Anything is possible.

Young, Curtis
Class of 2005



*Excellence demands
effort and planned,
deliberate practice of increasing
difficulty every day. Excellence
over sustained periods of time
leads to success. It's a simple
equation really. You need to start
and then consistently keep going
– no excuses. It's easy to point
out faults. It's easy to lay blame
outside of ourselves around why
things are not going to plan.
Commit yourself fully to the
pursuit of your dreams – they are
achievable, you just need to start.*

Zealand, Shandrea

Class of 2003

Dear Fellow Muirites, the greatest life lesson I have learnt is that things can change in a second. That's why it is important to live your best life while you have the time. In this journey of life you will come across many obstacles that may deter you from your goal and even your purpose in life. When you are faced with these challenges, remember to be true to yourself, as it is so easy to get lost or sidetracked on this journey this is coming from first-hand experience. Never allow yourself to become complacent or settled in anything that you do, as you can be replaced at any time, so don't get too comfortable, and be ready to move on when the time comes.

It was just a few years ago when I found myself sitting in Mr Francis's Geography class and I will never forget these words he once uttered to us: ***"Enjoy these last few days with each other, 'cause once you step through those blue gates, that's when life starts and you have to start making your own decisions and choices, and you will start missing these days"***.

So just the other day I saw a video of a study that was conducted by a nurse at a nursing home in which they wanted to determine the number one thing people regret before they die, and this is what they came up with:

1. I wish I had let myself be happier.
2. I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends.
3. I wish I had the courage to express my feelings.
4. I wish I hadn't worked so hard.

*In conclusion, gents, do what makes you happy. Live life, don't let life live you. Stay true to yourself and your character, keep in touch with your fellow brothers and continue to strengthen your bond, as you never know when you might need each other. Last, but not least, have a great one. ***Nec Pluribus Impar – Second To None.****

Zietsman, Steven

*Principal Brandwag
High School*



Lesson 1: *Your word is your honor.*

Lesson 2: *Be receptive to others' opinions.*

Lesson 3: *The difference between school and life? In school you're taught a lesson and given a test. In life, you're given a test that teaches you a lesson.*

Lesson 4: *A bird sitting on a tree is never afraid of the branch breaking because its trust is not in the branch but in its wings. Always believe in yourself.*

*May every Muirite prosper and cherish his **alma mater**.*

Congratulations!

Inkanyezi Event Organisers-facilitators of the Working World Exhibition - the biggest Careers Expo in South Africa is proud to be associated with Muir College Boys High School and the Kariega Careers Symposium

Congratulations on celebrating your 200 Year milestone





Nec Pluribus Impar

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