



# June 2020 Newsletter

## Issue 9



### The Beautiful Lawns at Inanda Seminary

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Warmest greetings, Members!

We're already half way through 2020, and what a year it has been thus far! One cannot doubt that 2020 is a year we shall never forget.

After a good start in which we celebrated the stellar results of the matric Class of 2019 -- 100% matric passes, 88% Bachelor passes and 157 distinctions -- by the end of March the country was officially put in a total lockdown due to the corona virus. This was Stage 5 as we were to learn later. However, after many consultations with medical professionals and the World Health Organisation, and despite the lobbying from various stakeholders who were opposed to the idea, the Department of Basic Education decided that Gr 12 and Gr 7 learners should returned to class on 1 June, as we entered Stage 3. For a comprehensive summary of how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected Inanda Seminary these past three months, please read the attached report that Judy Tate has kindly written for us as the Executive Director of the school.

The country now has more than 3 000 corona deaths and many of us probably have a parent, relative, neighbour, colleague or friend who has succumbed to the virus. Please accept my sincerest condolences. I am at a loss for words but encourage all those of us who are bereaved to look up to God for comfort and renewed strength. This is a very trying time for many of us, as some have lost their livelihoods or are facing a lot of uncertainties in an economy which is going even deeper into the recession. Indeed, this has been a cold and depressing winter. As a result of all the obvious challenges, please be advised that **there will be no "AT HOME" this year on 10 October**. Consequently, at its next meeting the ISAA Board will discuss the feasibility of holding a virtual AGM.

#### **OUTSTANDING MATRIC FEES**

For the reasons mentioned above many parents are struggling to pay their daughters' school fees. Given that 93% of the school's income comes from school fees, this presents a very big challenge for the school's finances. As at 30 June there were 36 matric students who owed R296 000 for Term 1 and Term 2 fees.

On the bright side the Fundraising Committee, on behalf of the beneficiaries, hereby expresses its sincerest thanks to the generous alumnae for the R280 000 (4 X R70 000 full bursaries) donated in January and the R30 000 that has been pledged towards another deserving matric student this June.

Nevertheless, to support those who are destitute we continue with the #R100ForNandaGirls campaign. Thus far only 25 of the more than 500 alumnae we have on our database have pledged their monthly R100. Surely we can do better than that, ladies. We are a very large cohort of illustrious alumnae who are respected as professionals and leaders in many spheres throughout the country. We must demonstrate that charity begins at home and continue the legacy of the many great women who carved the path for us. Let us put our money where our hearts are. Every rand counts.

As initiated in the June 2019 ISAA newsletter, a list of alumnae who contributed a minimum of R2 000 between January and June 2020 is provided below. Please do provide references that will help identify who you are so you can get the credit you so rightly deserve.

The total contribute by the alumnae thus far is R66 200, thank you very much for your contributions.

|                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Class of 75         | 6. Dr. Penelope Moumakwa |
| 2. Dloti               | 7. Noxolo Mbadi          |
| 3. Dr. M. Maholwana    | 8. Sibongile Cele        |
| 4. Dr. Funeka Ngcabani | 9. Thandi Orleyn         |
| 5. Khanya Mahlare      |                          |

- Those who donate R5 000 or more before the virtual AGM on Saturday, 10 October, will get special mention in the virtual At Home programme.
- In light of the financial strife brought by the pandemic, those who donate R50 000 or more from Jan 2020 now have an extension until 31Dec 2020 **instead of** the original AT HOME, 10 Oct deadline. So, they will get special recognition on a permanent feature, e.g. on a special "Honour Board," for Silver (R50 000), Gold (R100 000), and Platinum (R200 000) donors.

#### **BANK DETAILS**

Please use the ISOGA account details provided below for all your donations and monthly pledges.

**Account Name: The ISOGA Education and Development Trust**

**Bank: ABSA Branch: Kingsmead**

**Branch Number: 632005**

**Account Type: Money Market Account**

**Account Number: 909 726 4395**

NB: You can claim a tax rebate for your contributions to the school by emailing the bursar, Simone Miller (bursar@inanda.org). Furnish her with your physical or postal address, which she needs to include in the S18A certificates.

#### **CHALLENGE FOR THE CLASSES**

**Again those who graduated in classes that will be celebrating special reunions this year are encouraged to organise themselves and appoint Class Champions to coordinate them to contribute lump sums, i.e.**

- Class of 1990 (30th reunion),**
- Class of 2000 (20th reunion), and**
- Class of 2010 (10th reunion)**

##### **"TO DO" CHECKLIST**

- Instruct your bank to set up a monthly R100 stop order immediately. Account details above.
- If you shop at Woolworths, please add Inanda Seminary as your "My School" beneficiary on your My School card. Email [cs@myschool.co.za](mailto:cs@myschool.co.za) with the request and provide your My School card number to do this quickly from your smart phone or other device. Every swipe counts, and it costs you nothing! You are allowed more than one beneficiary. Thanks to those who already have Inanda as their beneficiary.

Stay safe!

Dr. Siphokazi Koyana, Ph.D., CD(SA)

ISAA Chair

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## **ISAA Newsletter – COVID 19 Inanda Seminary update**

### **School Closure Lockdown COVID 2020**

From the announcement of school closures in mid-March 2020, followed a week later by the country wide Level 5 lock down announcement, we have all been travelling along a path never travelled before. The early closure had implications on our Term 1 Quarterly tests which had not yet begun in certain grades, no reports were able to be issued, and online learning had to be implemented immediately. Fortunately, online learning platforms are no new thing to IS staff, but the difficulty of not seeing students and coping with students who had difficulty with the costs of data and infrequent access to devices, made it challenging for most. The Academic Executive headed by the principal Thembi Ndlovu were well planned and prepared and offered good on-going professional development throughout the period.

Two of the property team agreed to be locked down on the campus and they assisted with the property over the 5 weeks of Lockdown Level 5 and 4. The process of deep cleaning and sanitising the school to meet stringent national requirements before staff and students were able to return was well managed and the school was commended for this both by the Dept of Health and the Dept of Education – both of whom conducted numerous inspections. It was an expensive, unbudgeted operation as sanitiser (hand and surface), foot dispensers, COVID packs for every room, perspex screens, floor markings, posters, spraying equipment etc were all purchased and installed. Cleaning and sanitising teams had to be effected 7 days per week, and our support staff are to be commended for a diligent and willing approach with very little additional support. They start work at 6h00 and finish after the 15<sup>th</sup> dining hall spray at 19h00 (5 sessions for 3 meals a day as a max of 50 members). Social distancing requirements made it essential that hostels were rearranged and the chapel and chapel hall have both been turned into dormitories that house 21+29 Gr 8 students from Phelps Hall. Ablutions were constructed in the vestries and storerooms attached to this building, as well as a matrons flatlet. The members, being members, have renamed them the Jesus dorms and share stories of never having slept better.



**School reopening after Lockdown** - A carefully crafted Academic Plan was arranged (and rearranged as the Minister of Education changed the parameters repeatedly) for the return of the students in order to ensure time was recouped. All 5 grades were phased in efficiently and only 4 members and 1 staff member opted not to return with comorbidities. There are however a further 40 members who have been unable to return as they cannot pay outstanding arrear fees.

**Financial Implications** – these have been a huge challenge. Unpaid school fees have been exceptionally high despite online learning very visibly taking place. Many families are suffering during this time, and previous contracts are unable to be honoured. This is a grave concern as 93% of the school's income is generated through fees. Cleaning and sanitising expenses require a new ongoing budget item which we foresee will run into hundreds of thousands for the 6 months to year end. Some funding from TERS has assisted in reducing some of those costs from April 2020, but other measures (creating a loan account for 50% of staff 13<sup>th</sup> cheques, taking a loan holiday from ISASA Old Mutual Provident Fund, applying to the Trust for a possible loan, and ISAA Fundraiser Dr Siphokazi Koyana approaching international funders), have all been implemented. The finance team have felt the weight of this moment most severely and 2 of the team of 3 are unwell.

**One month after school reopening** – we need prayer to weather the financial storm and for protection of staff and students. This week has been a week filled with emotions of concern after receiving the first Coronavirus cases in 3 of the 5 grades. We had realised that with so many people coming from so many different environments and experiences this was a possibility as the school resumed, and our diligently preparation helps only to slow the spread of the virus. Standard Operating Procedures as issued to all schools have been strictly implemented and the Principal and Pastoral Deputy, Thembi Ndlovu and Busie Mdladla are to be commended for their professional, stoic, and efficient stances. Our areas of difficulty are getting everyone to observe social distancing and wear masks at all times. Many parents have panicked and removed their daughters, and then have to follow requirements before they can be returned. The options available to boarding schools are not as straightforward as day-schools as we do not see the pandemic easing in our country for months, possibly years ahead of us. We will try to avoid any school closure as this would probably need to be lengthy as nothing is able to change in the foreseeable future except the human element. The forth coming school break in August in itself poses problems as an exhausted staff need a rest (been going without the regular school holiday now) and parents express anxiety about children going home and then needing to regroup from the start again.

We cling to The Rock – in our God do we trust.

Judy Tate

Executive Director – Inanda Seminary