



Tsogo High School Alumni Society

NPO Registration No. 053-952-NPO

Alumni NEWS

First Half 2009 – Issue 3 (July 2009)

We welcome you once again to our Alumni Society's newsletter which aims to keep alumni and friends of Tsogo informed about the society's activities, plans and inform you about some key developments at the school. Our wish is for this mouth-piece to encourage you to lend a hand to the society and the school where possible.

IN THIS ISSUE, we begin by giving you a brief report on how the school performed in last year's (2008) Matric results. Our main feature is the 2nd Annual Alumni Careers Expo hosted at the school. This event was a great success and was well attended by various organizations, companies and alumni.

In the next section we give you some very exciting news about Tsogo's new Mathematics Laboratory which was officially opened in June 2008. The lab was built and equipped from a large donation received from the Epoch and Optima Trusts which the school sourced. The Alumni Society wishes to congratulate everyone involved at the school for sourcing the grant and seeing the project through to fruition.

The Society has also received great assistance from Vukosi Marivate (Class of 2003) who put together a website for all alumni (<http://tsogo.vima.co.za>) and various social networking platforms (Facebook, LinkedIn). In this issue we introduce you to these useful alumni communication platforms and encourage you to use them to access information about the alumni, school and our activities.

Finally, we wrap up this issue by giving you our plans for the rest of 2009, some general information about the society and requesting your support and donations.

Once again thank you for your interest in Tsogo Secondary School. We remain confident that our humble efforts will go a long way in contributing to the creation of future industry and society leaders from within the pool of Tsogo alumni.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – July 2009

Contents:

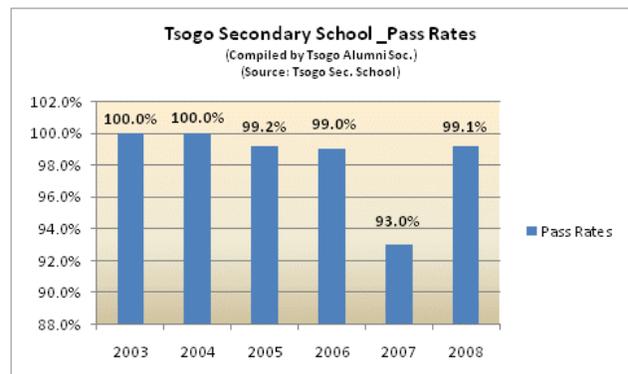
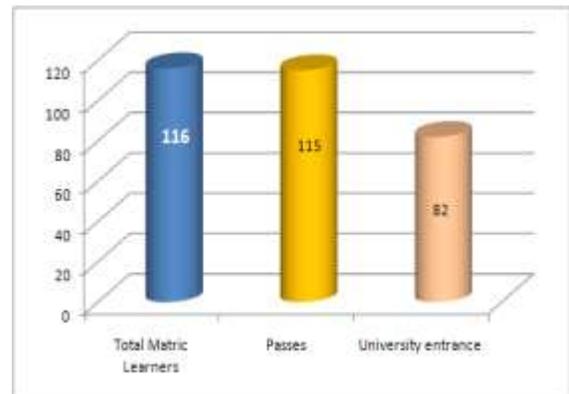
Matric Results 2008	Page 2
2 nd Alumni Careers Expo	3
New Maths Laboratory	11
Alumni On-line Presence	13
Alumni Social Networking.....	14
2009 Plans _ Careers Expo.....	15
2009 Plans _ Fundraising.....	16
How to contact us.....	17

Matric Results 2008

Tsogo is still able to deliver good results as evidenced by the pass rate in 2008. The pass rate in Calendar Year (CY) 2008 was **99.14%**. The exemptions (university entrance) rate however came out just above **70.6%** - which falls short of the society's target of 80 to 90%.

In 2008 a total of 116 Matric learners registered for the exams and 82 obtained university entrance passes. Principal Assi attributed this success to the hard work the teachers put in during 2008. Only one learner failed in that year.

The 2008 pass rate is highly commendable given that in CY2007 the school only managed to obtain a 93% pass rate (8 learners failed as a result of the teachers' strike in that year). In 2006, Tsogo obtained a 99% pass rate so the drop in 2007 was a serious shock and setback. The Alumni Society had serious concerns following the release of the 2007 results but is now greatly encouraged by the turnaround and increase in pass rate in 2008.



SPECIAL REPORT

2nd ANNUAL ALUMNI CAREERS EXPO

Saturday, 12th APRIL 2008 held at Tsogo H. School – Mmakau Village

On the 12th April 2008 the Tsogo Alumni Society in conjunction with the school arranged a Careers Expo at the school. This was the second such event organized by the Alumni Society which plans to make this an annual event targeting Grade 10 to 12 learners.

Various academic institutions, companies and alumni were invited to come and present to learners on various careers and study options. This also gave the learners an opportunity to interact with alumni and people currently in various career fields and ask direct questions regarding their intended study fields. The academic institutions gave talks to the learners on how to get into the institutions, which school subjects to take to qualify for admission into various degrees and answered numerous questions.

The company presentations and alumni career talks were meant to give current learners first hand career information and advice from those currently in the field. These were made more special by the Tsogo alumni who gave talks to the learners and reminded them that they had achieved their career success having come from where the learners currently are. This helped motivate the learners to work hard and aim to achieve what their 'big brothers and sisters' had achieved.

The 2nd Annual Alumni Careers Expo was very successful and very well attended. The society plans to increase the number of participating companies, institutions and alumni as the event continues to grow over the coming years.

We wish to thank all companies and institutions who gave their time to come and talk to the learners. Further the executive committee thanks all alumni who attended and gave learners some (formal and informal) career and academic advice. Having sat at Tsogo themselves their stories of success are a great source of inspiration for the learners and school.

Finally we wish to thank everyone involved in putting together this event – including Motlalepula Phakedi (Alumni Society), Mrs. Rapodile (Tsogo Faculty) and the rest of the executive committee.

A special 'Thank You' goes out to all the teachers for co-planning the event and preparing the lunch; and to everyone who donated some funds for this lunch and for the event to take place.

**THANK YOU TO ALL THE COMPANIES,
INSTITUTIONS, ALUMNI, TEACHERS AND SCHOOL,
PARENTS AND LEARNERS FOR ATTENDING AND
PRESENTING AT THE EXPO.**

Academic Institutions



Representatives from the **Tshwane University of Technology**.



The **University of Pretoria** was also represented at the event. Learners were also handed out application forms and brochures on various courses, diplomas and degrees.



Pictured here (left): Representatives from **Midrand Graduate Institute** and **CTI** on a short break before continuing with their talks with Tsogo learners.

Company Presentations & Alumni Career Talks

- **Careers in Science, Engineering and Technology**



Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (PBMR) – one of the Alumni Society's longest supporters and donors was also present at the event to talk to learners about **careers in Engineering and Nuclear Science**. **Pono Mogoera** (Class of 1997 alumnus and Society Dep. Chairperson) a Process Engineer at the PBMR gave learners some practical hints on how to get there.

This was a joint presentation by the PMBR company and the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Engineering which highlighted the importance of co-operation and inter-relations between industry, the private sector and academic institutions to the learners.



(Pictured above: Representatives from SAASTA) - The South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA) aims to advance public awareness, appreciation and engagement of **Science, Engineering and Technology** in South Africa. They were represented at the event to teach learners about careers in Science.



Their presentation also included some practical live experiments which fascinated and taught the learners a lot more about Science and Engineering.

SAASTA and the Saturday Star also run a biennial competition '**The Young Science Writers Competition**' which is open to young scientists aged 20 – 35 at South African higher education institutions and science councils. The contest gives young scientist the opportunity to write a 700-word article on any scientific or science-related subject, to inform and entertain the readers of Saturday Star.

The Alumni Society would like to encourage current learners and qualifying alumni to enter for this competition and highlight the practical quality of education at the school.

- **Careers in Science & Astronomy**

(Picture – Right): **Sam Rametse** who co-ordinates the Science Awareness programme at Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomy Observatory (HartRao) presented on **Astronomy**

The Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomy Observatory (HartRAO) is located west of Johannesburg, South Africa. It operates as a National Research Facility under the auspices of the National Research Foundation (NRF).





Malebo Mahape – a prominent Tsogo alumnus and Communications, Corporate & External Relations Manager at BHP Billiton Energy Coal (SA) gives a talk to learners. Also attending the talk are fellow alumni (pictures above - right) who also shared their career and professional experiences.

Malebo Mahape was previously Chief Director: Communication in the Department of Minerals and Energy.



Motlalepula Phakedi (Class of 1997 Tsogo alumnus & Society Chairperson) giving a talk to learners about careers in **Information Technology & Systems**. Motlalepula works in IT at Gijima Ast, an Information and Communications Technology company based in Midrand, Johannesburg. She also briefed learners about careers at Gijima AST. Motlalepula graduated from Rhodes University with a BSc degree in Information Technology.

- **Careers in Commerce and Finance**



Thabo Ncalo (Class of 1997 alumnus and Society Secretary) giving a talk to learners on careers in **Investment Management, Investment Analysis and Finance**.

Thabo is an Investment Analyst at Stanlib Asset Management – an asset and investment management firm based in Johannesburg.

He introduced learners to careers in investments including roles such as credit and equity analysis, portfolio management & corporate finance.



Malebo Chadi (CA) SA (Class of 1997 alumnus and Society Treasurer) who completed his Chartered Accountancy articles at Ernst and Young and Selaotswe Sepeng (invited guest and Trainee Accountant at Deloitte & Touché) pictured here giving a talk to learners about **careers in Accounting and on how to qualify as Chartered Accountants**.

- Careers in Film, Television and the Performing Arts



Aubrey Poo (ex Morekolodi Primary & Tsogo student) and **Joan Legalamitlwa** (alumnus and ex. Society exec. member) are pictured here talking to learners about **careers in the Film and TV Industry**.

Joan has experience working in various Film productions and film festivals around the world having worked for organizations such as 'Encounters Film Festivals'. **Aubrey** is a well known South African TV personality and actor in the popular TV series 'Muvhango'.

Joan graduated from the University of Cape Town with a Degree in Arts: Film, Media and Visual Studies and Aubrey completed studies in Drama & Acting at Tshwane University of Technology and Pro Arte Alphen Park School in Menlo Park, Pretoria.

- Other career and alumni presentations



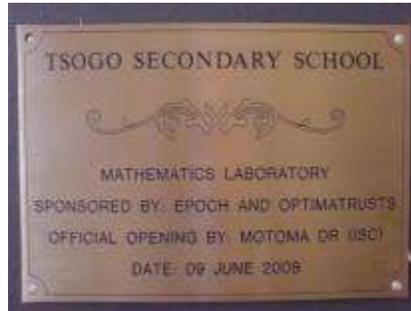
(Above): Boitumelo Tihlakae from PBMR (left) and other alumni giving career and motivational talks to learners.

After the Event – Networking, Reunions & a School-Society Prepared Lunch!



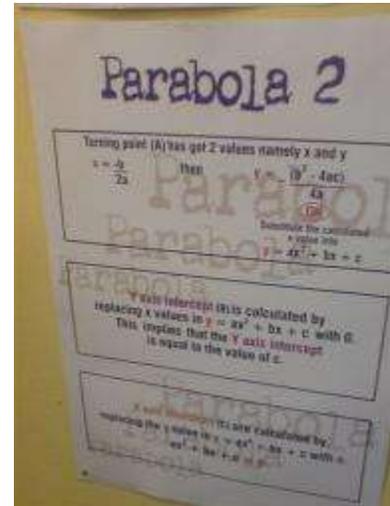
New Mathematics Laboratory

Grant from the Epoch and Optima Trusts – 9th June 2008



In 2008 the school managed to source a grant of R420, 000 from the Epoch and Optima Trusts for the building of a new Mathematics Lab and advancement of Mathematics at the school. The grant was aimed at both the construction and equipping of the Maths Lab and for extra Maths classes and programmes for learners. The Maths lab was officially opened in June 2008 and Pono Mogoera (Alumni Society Dep. Chairperson) attended the event on behalf of the Society.

The Alumni Society wishes to thank the Epoch and Optima Trusts for the grant and congratulates the school for the continued excellent achievements.



The school produced a report that lists the following targets for Mathematics:

- Improve the quality of mathematics results – 85% of the learners to achieve 5s, 6s and 7s in Mathematics 2009 Matric results.
- Increasing the number of mathematics learners. The target is to have at least 90% of learners enrolling for mathematics in 2009 Matric.
- Make learners enjoy the learning of mathematics.



Actions taken with the grant in 2008 to improve performance and participation in mathematics:

- In 2008, the school was able to construct a high security Mathematics Laboratory equipped with desks and computers for teaching and learning mathematics.
- The school also organised extra mathematics classes during the holidays and on Saturdays that enabled the school to consolidate the teaching/learning of the normal school days.
- As a result the school was able to cover the curriculum, solve a lot of problems and in the end achieved a 92.6% pass in mathematics with 53% of the learners achieving (7s, 6s and 5s).



Computers donated by the Dept. Of Education
(‘Dinaledi Schools’ Award)



Computers bought using Epoch & Optima
Trusts’ donation

The Results of the Programme to date:

- The impact of the programme has been great, apart from the improved performance of the learners the 2008 Matric result as compared to the previous three (3) years performance, the school also recorded improved achievements in mathematics in the internal examinations.
- There has been an improvement in learners’ interest in mathematics in Grades 11 and 10. 100% (143) of all Grade 10 learners are taking mathematics while over 80% (107) of the Grade 11 learners are taking mathematics. Today, as a result of the programme, Tsogo despite being in a rural area offers high quality ICT incorporated mathematics teaching / learning made accessible to the disadvantaged rural dwellers.

Highlights of setbacks in the programme in 2008:

- Insufficient time to implement all the demands of integrating ICT in teaching
- Insufficient numbers of textbooks to go round the learners
- Some learners not being able to participate in some of the holiday activities

Alumni Website & Social Networking

The Society has also received great assistance from **Vukosi Marivate** (Class of 2003) and **Tebogo Tamenti** (Class of 2004) who put together a website for all alumni (<http://tsogo.vima.co.za>) and various social networking platforms (incl. Facebook, LinkEd and others). They have recently added Mpeleng Moloisane (Class of 2005) as a new team member. All the work they do is on a voluntary basis and new features and information is planned for the coming future.

These initiatives will be very useful to all Tsogo Alumni as it allows everyone to keep in touch with each other, the school and the society. The webpage is updated regularly and offers features such as the:

- Alumni Society Page
- Alumni Profiles - Regular profiles of Tsogo Alumni
- Updated News (Home Page)
- School Publications and Information
- Information for Current Learners
- Pictures

The website team hopes that alumni will also contribute to its content by sending pictures, stories and information that others can use. A planned career roster is being constructed.



The society congratulates all those involved in designing, launching and regularly updating the web page. We hope this will be a highly useful alumni communication platform and we encourage everyone to use it to access information about the alumni, school and our society activities.

The same team has also created a **WIKIPEDIA** page for the school. This page will continue to be updated but it is also a great initiative to improve the school's online reputation and presence.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tsogo_High_School



Tsogo Alumni are on

facebook

Group: Tsogo High School: Scholars- Past & Present.

The screenshot shows the Facebook interface for the group 'Tsogo High School: Scholars- Past & Present'. The group is categorized as 'Organisations - Academic Organisations'. The description states: 'We are trying to get Tsogo learners to interact with each other from around the world. A reunion for past students has been proposed, so if most of your past classmates join this group then you guys will surely have a reunion soon. So tell all your Tsogo friends to join and feel free to share your experiences with us, we would like to know what you have been up to!'. The group's postal address is P.O. Box 911350, Rosslyn, 0200. The group's website is <http://tsogo.vma.co.za>. The group type is 'Open group'. The group type description says: 'This is an open group. Anyone can join and invite others to join.' The group has a 'Share' button and a 'Group type' section.

The Facebook group currently has close to 400 members but has been growing rapidly. This is a great way for alumni to network, arrange class reunions, communicate with the Alumni Society and the school and simply chat about the school, memories, updates and other issues on their minds!

More TSOGO ALUMNI Social Networks can be found on:

[LinkedIn](#), [Names Database](#), [Myspace](#), [SAReunited](#)

Upcoming Events:

3rd ANNUAL ALUMNI CAREERS EXPO

The Tsogo Alumni Society is pleased to announce its "3rd Annual Alumni Careers Expo" (in conjunction with the school) which will be hosted at Tsogo Secondary School in late September 2009.

Our Careers Expo will consist of a day of presentation by various academic institutions, companies offering bursaries and bursary information, companies presenting to learners about their services and products and importantly, Tsogo Alumni talking about their personal academic and professional experiences and giving career guidance to Grade 10 to 12 learners.

At this year's expo, the Alumni Society will also launch the school's first ever alumni sponsored 'Investment Club' aimed at teaching Grade 10 to 12 learners about the importance of saving and investing and further introducing them to careers in Investments, Finance, Corporate Finance and Investment Banking. The Investment Club will be launched with its 1st ever 'Club Investment Workshop' that will introduce members of the club to investment and stock market concepts. The Investment Club will be required to register and take part in the JSE / Liberty Life Schools' Challenge in 2010 and meet regularly to discuss market related stories, updates, case studies and projects.

This event will provide an excellent opportunity to network with many of the alumni and companies present – as well as showcase various career options to the learners.

Further details about the event will be circulated to all alumni in late July / early August 2009.



We look forward to
Welcoming you at
The Expo!



FUNDRAISING

The Alumni Society requests your help as alumni and friends of Tsogo in raising funds for 2 specific projects in 2009...

PROJECT: Boards & Signage for the School

Tsogo does not currently have any signage or boards in front of the school or at key intersections in the area bearing its name. Over the years visitors from outside the area have found it harder to locate the school. In addition both the school and the Alumni Society believe that a board in front of the school will help by giving the school physical prominence and simply, serve to give a warmer greeting to visitors.

The Society would like the alumni of Tsogo to assist in putting up these signs and boards. The Society is currently in talks with the school to obtain quotations for large printed boards and signs for this project and would appreciate any further financial or logistical assistance from alumni.

PLEASE HELP US BY SOURCING DONATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT AND/OR MAKING ANY FINANCIAL DONATION FOR THIS PROJECT (Small or Large will be appreciated!)

Third Annual Careers Expo event – September 2009

This Annual Careers event is becoming more popular each year and the Alumni Society plans to make it larger, more inclusive (by offering more career choices) and therefore more beneficial to the learners. To do this however, the society kindly requests your **DONATION** as alumni. Cost items for the event include **CATERING, PRINTING AND STATIONERY, TRANSPORT**. We also plan to introduce **T-SHIRTS / CAPS FOR THE EVENT**. A detailed budget and sponsorship request document will be released and sent to you separately prior to the event.

**WE URGE YOU TO MAKE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION FOR THE WELL-BEING OF TSOGO LEARNERS.
PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU REQUIRE FURTHER INFORMATION.**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A FINANCIAL DONATION TO THE SOCIETY...

The society is a registered non-profit organization that survives solely on Donations. To contribute to this worthy cause and make a difference in a learner's life, kindly make a donation into the following account:

Bank: **Standard Bank**
Branch: **Van der Walt Street, Pretoria**
Branch no: **0145**
A/c name: **Tsogo High School Alumni Society**
A/c number: **635073595**
Account type: **Savings**

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

How to join and contact the society

To formally become a member of the society, you may request a **Membership form**. A form will be sent to you along with the society's **Prospectus** and **Constitution**.

To download all forms and read more about the Tsogo Alumni society, kindly visit the Alumni website at <http://tsogo.vima.co.za/society>. You may also reach us and other alumni on Facebook.

To get regularly updated information about events, please go to <http://tiny.cc/CihE9> and fill in the form to register.

Executive member contact details:

- Motlalepula Phakedi (Chairperson) - 082 886 6334 (pule.phakedi@gijima.com)
- Pono Mogoera (Deputy Chairperson) – 072 340 0087 (Pono.Mogoera@pbmr.co.za)
- Malebo Chadi CA (SA) (Treasurer) - 082 801 7662 (mchadi@fnb.co.za)
- Thabo Ncalo (Secretary) – 083 690 3917 (Thabo.ncalo@stanlib.com)



Tsogo High School Alumni Society

Est. June 2005