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### ALUMNI NEWS – TWO TOP ACHIEVERS

**Talia da Silva [Class of 2005]** attended the University of Cambridge from 2014-2017 to study for her doctorate with a Gates Cambridge scholarship. Her research investigated the behaviour of roads in areas where sinkholes can occur, and considered how these can be designed to be made more resilient to damage from the collapse.



Talia graduated from her PhD on Friday, 20 July 2018, and is now working as a Research Associate at the University of Cambridge's Department of Engineering.

### Kirsten Eastes [Class of 2017]

This article was written by Lionel van Wyk and was published in the Northern Review. Acknowledged with thanks!

**Kirsten se bloed is groen en goud**

Lionel van Wyk

KIRSTEN EASTES, oud-Mokkone-irwoner en matriculant van Stanford Lake College, studeer tans argitektuur aan die Universiteit van Pretoria en is ontlangs gekies as star tot die Springbok-studente vroue-sewerugby-span.

Kirsten (18) sê: "Ek het vir Taks studente vroue-sewerugby-span gespeel by die Universiteit Sport van Suid-Afrika (USSA) waar ek gekies was vir die USSA 'dreamteam'."

Na 'n oerleentap in die finale Springbok studentespan aangewys.

"Ek kon ongelooflik my gaan nie oordad ek 'n internasionale toer in Frankryk saam met Taks vroue bywoon. Die afrigter het my regtens gekies op grond van my vorige wedstryde en video's wat hy van my gesien het waar ek speel."

"Ek het vanaf 10-14 Julie in Namibia saam met die Springbok studentespan aan die 2018 ITSU World University Championships deelgeneem."

Sy verneë haar familie is lief vir die sportsoort. "Toe sy vierjaar oud was dat haar universiteit 'n vroue-sewerugby span het, het sy dadelik besluit om deel te neem."

Sy het op hoërskool aan talle sportsoorte deelgeneem en in gr. 10 reeds vir die eerste keer 'n nersbelspanne gespeel.

Bergriffe was haar gunningste sportsoort op skool en sy was in gr. 8-11 vir Limpopo-span gekies. Sy was in die beste in haar kategorie tydens die finale van die nasionale interkolle Spar Bergspanneke in haar gr. 9 jaar aangewys.

"In die begin was my ouers maar baie skepties oor die sewerugby. Toe hulle agterkom water goeie vriendinne ek maak en dat ek aan tiernooie-sonne kan deelneem het hulle my meer ondersteun. My pa is my grootste aanhanger en motiveer my om altyd my beste te gee."

Sy sê haar soekomplimente

Kirsten Eastes speel vir die Springbok studente vroue-sewerugby-span

### LIMPOPO SCHOOLS MOUNTAIN BIKING

On Saturday, 28 July SLC took part in the first round of the Limpopo Schools MTB series. SLC did very well, claiming a few podium positions. Danica Altenroxel finished 3rd in Youth Women; Herman Fourie won the Youth Men in a spectacular sprint finish; Lara Dando finished 3rd in the Junior Women and Ani Gutierrez-Hernandez took the top spot in the Junior Women, earning the series leader's jersey. These results, together with all the other SLC riders, managed to put SLC in 2nd place in the high school category. Well done to all the riders. We are looking forward to the rest of the season.

*Mr Tiaan Fullard*

### ASH RIVER FESTIVAL KAYAKING

On Friday, 3 July the SLC kayak team travelled to Clarence for the annual Ash River Festival. With possible rain forecast, it promised to be an interesting weekend with some epic paddling. Saturday morning was warmer than expected with some cloud cover but no rain yet. Registration was at the Alles-verlooren rapid, where the teams were given race numbers, race plans, safety briefings - and a rude awakening with some very cold water! There were two race types happening; namely kayak racing and raft racing. SLC had three teams in the raft race, consisting of at least one non-kayaker: Michaela Gosling with Jarryd Gosling, Herman Fourie with Josh Fairhead and Jonas Augustin with Ethan Hitchins.

*Raft team: Josh Fairhead & Herman Fourie*

In the kayak event, there were different categories according to skill level and age. In the Beginner Men's class, SLC was represented by Jarryd Gosling, Ethan Hitchins and Josh Fairhead, who also came 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> respectively in the Junior U/16 class. Danica Altenroxel (pictured right) and Helene Werhahn where the only two women in the competition, taking 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> respectively in the Open Women and Junior Women. Casper Venter won the Junior U/18 class and also competed in the Expert Men class. He did very well and improved his skill level substantially. Mr Fullard managed to make the finals in the Expert class and finished 4<sup>th</sup>, racing down bridge rapid from a "staggered mass start".

*Group photo above L to R: Jarryd Gosling, Michaela Gosling, Jonas Augustin, Ethan Hitchins, Herman Fourie, Josh Fairhead, Danica Altenroxel, Helene Werhahn, Casper Venter, Keegan van Jaarsveld (alumnus student), Mr Tiaan Fullard (sitting)*



On Sunday, the group joined the instructional social run where everyone paddles down the river and enjoys the time with friends and learns some valuable skills from the top paddlers. Casper Venter also packed in some "guts" and ran Bridge-rapid successfully. Some kids from Maritzburg College joined SLC at this year's event. Big "thank you's" have to go out to the following: White Water Training for organising the event; the SLC parents who joined us for the trip, supporting the kids and helping us to keep warm and well fed; and to Petrus for driving long hours and keeping us safe on the roads. Well done to all the students for keeping the SLC name up high and making us very proud.

*Mr Tiaan Fullard*

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