

ISSUE 4, WINTER 2016

CEDAR COLLEGE

BRANCHING OUT

THE OFFICIAL CEDAR COLLEGE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

INCREDIBLE 20 YEARS

When the bell rang on the first day of school, back in 1997, we never could have imagined what would take place over the next twenty years.

CityReach Baptist Church (then known as Prospect Baptist Church) relocated to Northgate with the purpose of starting a Christian school, on a block of land surrounded by empty paddocks. On that first day, the pioneering students, families, teachers, staff and volunteers began to lay the foundation of what we experience at Cedar College today.

In this, the **20th year of Cedar College**, we are **holding a Celebration Week** to take the time to thank God and celebrate all that He has done. As well as events for our current Primary and High School students, **we have set aside a special evening on Thursday, September 29, to celebrate with our past students and graduates.**

Our 20th Anniversary Reunion will be a very casual evening, with wood-fired pizza and plenty of time for our past students to catch up with teachers and friends. There will also be the opportunity to visit our History Exhibition (hopefully, you will spot a photo or two of yourself!) and also visit some of the new facilities that have been built since your time with us.



Peter Thomson, Principal

The reunion evening is our way of saying thank you to you, our past students. During your time at Cedar, you may not have experienced all of the facilities that we have today, but we hope that you experienced the same feeling of community and belonging - no matter when, or how long, your time at Cedar was.

We hope that you are able to join us as we honour the past, look forward to what is ahead; and, most importantly, give thanks to God - *"Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think."* (Ephesians 3:20 NLT)

There are more details of the 20th Anniversary Reunion in this newsletter and, of course, there is plenty of up-to-date news on our website and Facebook page. I look forward to seeing many of you back a Cedar during our Celebration Week.

Warm regards

Peter Thomson
Cedar College Principal

IN THE PICTURE

Our 2016 Primary and High School Prefects, together with the "Giant 20", are getting ready for our huge Celebration Week at the end of Term 3!

Our Alumni and Old Scholars are invited back to Cedar on **Thursday, September 29**, for a casual night of wood-fired pizza, the opportunity to walk through the 20 Year History Exhibition and new facilities, plus have your photo taken with the "Giant 20"!

Like us on [facebook/cedarcollege](https://www.facebook.com/cedarcollege) for all the latest news and details.

About the Alumni Association

"Branching Out" is published annually, keeping graduates and old scholars of Cedar College up to date with news and events.



This newsletter is also available online at cedarcollege.sa.edu.au/alumni. Alumni members may submit news, change address details and choose how to receive Branching Out, by using our online form. You can email alumni@cedarcollege.sa.edu.au, follow us on Twitter [@CedarCollege](https://twitter.com/CedarCollege) or like us on [Facebook.com/CedarCollege](https://www.facebook.com/CedarCollege).

There wouldn't be a single High School student who doesn't know "Mrs Harris". After more than 10 years at Cedar, she has influenced and impacted the lives of hundreds of students. Let's wind back the clock, to find out more about our wonderful Head of High School!

■ **Susan, can you tell us a bit about your calling to be a teacher (I've heard that you were a PE major), and tell us where you spent your early days as a teacher?**

I loved sport, so a Physical Education course seemed the best way to continue my love of physical activity. I did my Diploma of Physical Education at Adelaide University and then later

■ **When you first came to Cedar, it was a fairly small High School. What were your goals and dreams for Cedar at that time?**

I came from a large girls' Catholic R-12 school, having held several leadership positions there. I had studied for my Masters in Education, and God really put it on my heart to search for another school. I was ready for a change and a new challenge. I came for the interview at Cedar on a cold, and very windy, late afternoon. I loved the interview with the Principal, Mr Thomson, Mr Fjording and a few other Board members. God gave me a real peace as I accepted the position of Middle School Co-ordinator.

Cedar, at that time, went only to Year 10 and was very small. It was an exciting time as the

forget that all teachers, with support staff from Reception through to Year 12, have input into the education and transformation of a student.

■ **As someone who is passionately involved with our student leaders, what qualities do you see as important for**

people who desire to be leaders themselves?

Yes, I love working with the student leaders. A leader needs to be servant-hearted and willing to lead by example.

I often remind student leaders that picking up a piece of rubbish can speak volumes. As a leader, one must aim to show the fruits of the Holy Spirit - *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control*.

However, we are all human, and being able to learn from one's mistakes shows character and integrity. Leadership is a God-given gift. Jesus is our model for leadership. I believe in a collaborative and co-operative leadership style, where the leader listens but has the ability to have others follow.

A sense of humour is a helpful leadership asset too!

■ **Finally, you've impacted the lives of many students, but can you tell us who has had an impact on your life?**

Wow, what a big question! My PE teacher had a huge impact on my life and, as I loved sport and activity, I thought how good it would be to have a job where I could easily connect with students and do what I love each day. So that was why I first went into PE teaching. My uncle has had a major influence on my life. He was a teacher and a missionary in Tanzania when I was a teenager and that made a huge impact on me. He became a mentor and still is. Finally, in 1981, I connected all the dots, so to speak, and understood who Jesus was, when my husband and I became committed Christians. This has influenced my life in every way.

SEEING RED

A TEACHER'S STORY

MRS HARRIS IS KNOWN AT CEDAR FOR HER COLOURFUL PERSONALITY, AND HER LOVE OF RED! THIS ISSUE, WE CHAT WITH THE "LADY IN RED".

carried on to complete my Bachelor of Arts, majoring in History and Australian Literature. I also completed my Diploma of Education and much later my Masters in Education. However, my first teaching jobs were all as a PE teacher. I loved teaching outside and encouraging physical activity across a broad range of abilities. I taught PE at Mitcham Girls High School, Wilderness School and Glenunga High School. After I had my three daughters, I taught briefly at St Aloysius and then for many years at St Dominic's Priory College.

■ **I'm sure many things have changed for teachers over the years - what are some of the things that you've noted as major changes, and what things haven't changed for you as a teacher?**

Yes! Teaching is much more complex these days, and there have been many changes in curriculum and methodology. Technology is now an integral part of school life, as is pastoral support for our students. I can also recall getting my very first pay in cash, for which I had to sign, and received this during my lunch hour!

Change is inevitable, but what has stayed the same are the wonderful students for whom education provides an opening of the mind to new knowledge and a hope for the future. The other thing that has not changed has been my passion for education. It is a real privilege to teach young people.

school developed and grew. My aim was to develop a positive learning culture and integrate the Christian worldview both inside and outside the classroom. I loved the fact

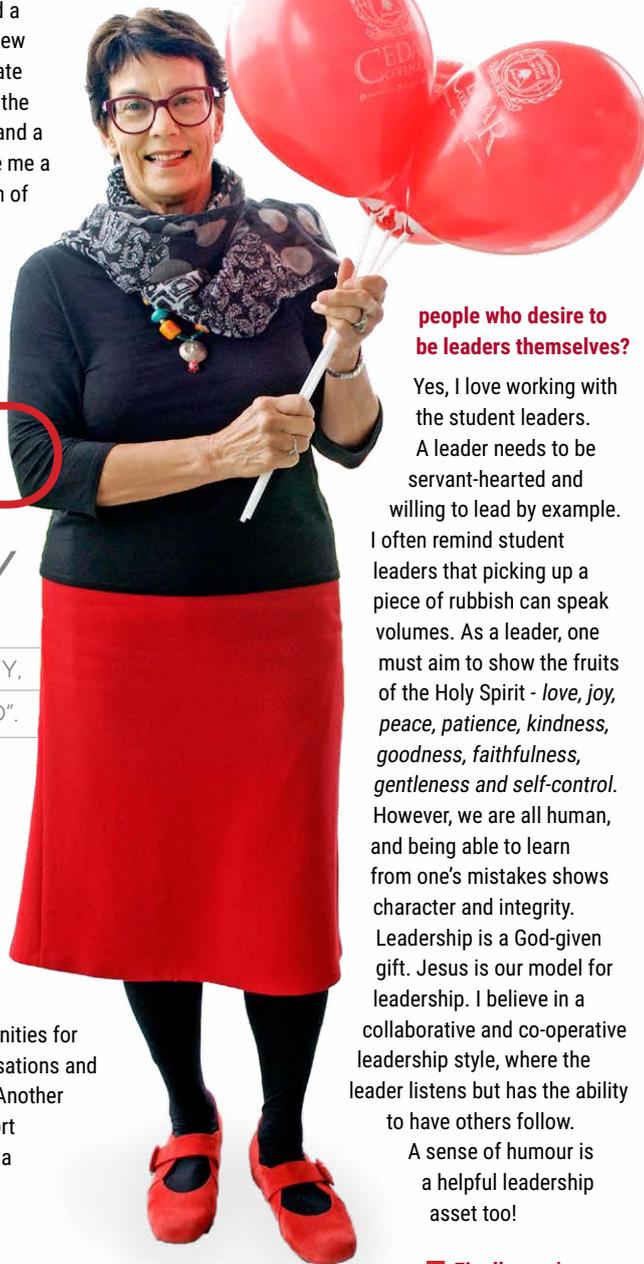
that I could speak into students' lives and have opportunities for individual conversations and encouragement. Another aim was to support staff. Developing a

teaching and learning culture needs trust and time, and my aim has been to develop a vibrant, professional learning culture, where staff are always looking at improving their practice. A Christian school, developing the God-given gifts and talents of students and staff, was a dream job for me!

■ **You've seen lot of building and facility changes at Cedar over your time here - what about changes in the students?**

There certainly have been huge building and facility changes, but what I really love is when I see students mature throughout their schooling years. I love it when students understand that teachers want the best for them. To see Year 12s graduate, and know that they have all heard the Gospel and that some have taken the message of Christ for their own, is such a great joy for me. To see lives transformed is a real privilege. We should not

I LOVE IT WHEN STUDENTS UNDERSTAND THAT TEACHERS WANT THE BEST FOR THEM...



JOURNO'S JOURNEY

A GRADUATE'S JOURNEY FROM ETHIOPIA TO ADELAIDE, TO ASIA.

■ **Hey Frances! Thanks for speaking with "Branching Out". You graduated in 2012, and I remember that you were very specific in your future goals - I believe that it was to work as a journalist for the BBC. Is this still your dream? What have you been doing since leaving Cedar?**

I am in my final year of a Journalism/International Relations double degree, which I had hoped would lead me to somewhere like the BBC. While that would be an amazing career, I've become more open to other forms of journalism, particularly long form, and am interested in magazines like National Geographic or documentaries like those made by Louis Theroux and Simon Reeve. That investigative style of journalism is very much a passion for me.



FRANCES EARLY
CLASS OF 2012

■ **Graduated in 2012, currently studying Journalism/International Relations double degree.**

■ **There might be some readers who didn't know that you grew up living in Ethiopia. How has that time shaped who you are, and were there any challenges transitioning to school at Cedar?**

Obviously, spending twelve years of my childhood in Ethiopia was hugely foundational to who I am now. My eyes were opened at such a young age to the work God is doing around the world and that has inspired me in pursuing missions work and aid and development work. It also gave me a sense of



GRADUATE & OLD SCHOLAR NEWS

Luke Thomson (Class of 2009), married Simone Armstrong on December 5, 2015.



Natalie Jonas married **Stephen Lloyd** (both are past Cedar students) on January 31, 2016.



Justin Proud (Class of 2009), married Alya Turko on May 7, 2016.



Nicole Rowe (née Sawade) (Class of 2011) welcomed baby Lilah Wendy, on November 15, 2015, with husband Jason.



Cassie Nyatsanga (née Trowbridge) welcomed baby Ivy Tinashe, on May 10, 2016, with husband Takudzwa.



“...something that I have been challenged about is being dependent on God ... that He has a purpose for my life.”

culture, which was difficult when my family moved to Australia as that culture and identity was somewhat snatched away from me. There are difficulties in any transition, especially when you are fourteen, so it took a while for me to find my feet at Cedar and in Australia. I had to make friends and find people with whom I connected, which was hard, coming from a place that is so foreign to most Australians.

■ **I've heard that you have recently been overseas in Central Asia - What was the purpose of your trip, and what did you get up to?**

Yes, I've just spent six weeks in Central Asia with an organization called SIM. The purpose was to get some work experience and to use the skills I have learned to help people who are working for God. I collected interviews from different missionaries and wrote articles that can be used to recruit

workers and also prayer support. It was a fantastic experience and wonderful to know that, while I may not have the gift of evangelism, I do have skills that God can use. Plus, it was amazing to spend time travelling, writing and taking photos.

■ **What have been some of the biggest challenges you've had since leaving school?**

One of my biggest challenges has been staying positive about the future. I think the current economy and the way we see our country in the news and through our politicians, makes it hard for young people to be optimistic. But something that I have been challenged about is being dependent on God to provide those things, and trusting that He has a purpose for my life. I've learned that I have to keep being proactive and seeking Him and opportunities, and He will open the right doors.

■ **Finally, what is something about your time at Cedar that sticks out as a great (or funny) memory for you?**

I have so many great memories scattered in between the stressful ones! Like when a classmate set off the fire alarm cooking bacon for a class breakfast and when we had to evacuate the Chem Lab because someone botched an experiment. I think it goes to show that often bad things turn out to be really funny a few years down the track. Another great memory from Year 12 was playing a prank on another student and as a class we all gathered round the common room to watch his face when he discovered his tomato sauce was actually Tobasco! We had a lot of fun that year!

TWENTY YEARS ONE REUNION

If you've been a part of our history, then you're invited to our 20 Year Anniversary Reunion! Join us on **Thursday September 29 from 5pm, at Cedar College. A casual evening of wood-fired pizza, while you catch up with friends and teachers. Visit our website for full details and the complete Celebration Week programme.**

■ Visit the 20 Year Reunion event page on [facebook.com/cedarcollege](https://www.facebook.com/cedarcollege) and click to show you're coming!

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?



CAMERON SMITH
CLASS OF 2012

Graduated in 2012, currently studying a double degree Bachelor of Justice and Society and Bachelor of Law.

■ **Thanks for catching up with "Branching Out" Cameron. Can you tell us where you are now, and what you're doing?**

I am studying a double degree of a Bachelor of Justice and Society and a Bachelor of Law and Legal Practices at Flinders University. I started with Justice and Society in 2014 and decided that I also wanted to take on Law at the end of that year, beginning my double degree with Law in 2015.

The Bachelor of Justice and Society is about looking at the law and the idea of justice to the different social groups which comprise western societies. I really love studying this degree and was awarded the Dean's Certificate for the topic Contentious Justice Issues in 2015, for my achievements in the topic.

Studying a Bachelor of Law and Legal Practices is all about Australian Law, and a little bit of International Law. While studying this degree, we look at all forms of law, such as Criminal Law, Tort Law, Contract Law, and Constitutional Law. We learn how to think and solve problems like a lawyer and look at issues with a legal knowledge.

■ **You finished school in 2012 - how did you find the transition from school to Uni? What has been the biggest challenge so far during your studies?**

Studying at University is much different from school in numerous ways. For one, you aren't required to come into University every day and can even choose to miss lectures and tutorials. It can be a shock to go from having something so structured like school to a learning programme that is so independent. The lecturers and tutors at University are there to help, but do not remind you when an assignment is due and will not chase you up or remind you if you have not handed it up.

One of the bigger challenges, whilst taking on my Law degree, was learning the language of the profession. Studying Law is like learning a new language and a new way of thinking. It challenges you to look at problems and see what others can't, identify possible legal issues and turn to relevant case and statute law to try and find a solution.

■ **We've seen you around Cedar quite a bit lately, in fact you won a Cedar Volunteer Award last year, what have you been doing at your old school?**

In 2015, I began volunteering weekly in Mrs

Danielle Cioffi's Year 11 and 12 Legal Studies Classes. I wanted to bring them some basic knowledge of law, and show that there is more to the law than just passing bills through Parliament or a judge's statutory interpretation methods. So far, the students have mostly enjoyed discussing criminal cases.

■ **Law can seem a bit overwhelming, but you seem to thrive on it. What attracts you to Law, and what do you see yourself doing once you graduate?**

I've been interested in the law and legal system for a while now, ever since first touching on it in Year 10 (2010) SOSE with Mr Reg Thompson.

I think that it is an extremely fascinating topic and one that only the people who study or research it truly understand completely. The law dictates every thing we do, both publicly and privately. We are bound by public law, such as criminal law, to ensure social cohesion and harmony among people, and we are regulated by various civil laws to ensure that people who have been wronged against have specific remedies open to them.

Once I have my Bachelor Degrees, I would like to go on to do further studies, perhaps even attaining a PhD in Law. I would like to pursue a career as a criminal prosecutor for the Director of Public Prosecutions, and I would love to work in reforming South Australia's domestic violence and rape laws, as there are some shocking



Cameron, volunteering in Legal Studies class.

statistics on the low reporting and pursuit of these allegations in this State, and around Australia.

■ **Finally Cameron, do you have a favourite (or funny) memory from your time at Cedar that you could share with us?**

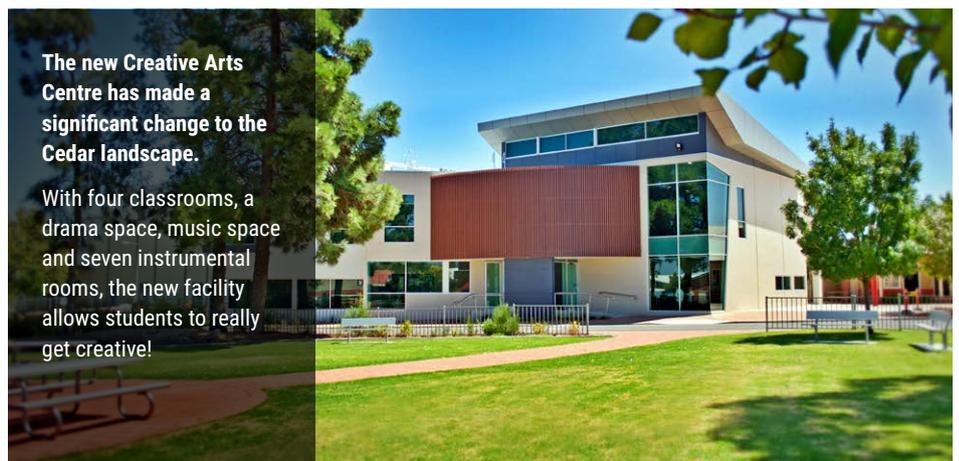
I have so many funny memories of Cedar College. There was the time that some of my classmates put Tabasco Sauce into another classmate's tomato sauce and watched their face turn red when they realised what had happened!

(Editor: Yes, Frances enjoyed that also - see page 3!)

Overall, one of the best memories I have of Cedar is just Cedar itself. There is nothing I would ever change about my time at Cedar College, the teachers are wonderful and are always willing to help you in any aspect of your life. My experience in Year 12 was unforgettable, and the Formal, and end of year paintball will always be remembered.

NOW & THEN

ON THE SITE OF THE OLD TECH WORKSHOP, STANDS AN IMPRESSIVE NEW CEDAR FACILITY.



The new Creative Arts Centre has made a significant change to the Cedar landscape.

With four classrooms, a drama space, music space and seven instrumental rooms, the new facility allows students to really get creative!

