

Class of '68 turns 21

A most successful Class of '68 Reunion was held in Pretoria over the week-end of the 28th-30th July 1989. The "21st birthday" was timed to coincide with the visit to South Africa by classmate Peter Shires from Blacksburg, Virginia, USA.

Class of sixty-eighters started converging on Pretoria from all corners of the country on Friday the 28th. Festivities got under way the same evening with a cocktail party at the Burgerspark Hotel. Old contacts and friendships were taken up (in some cases after the full 21 years!) as if it were yesterday. Inside older, balder and generally more portly figures lurked the same mischievous spirits. Old stories, jokes and memories came bubbling out just as in student days. How strong and enduring those bonds have turned out to be! Accommodation was arranged at the Onderstepoort Residence for some of the participants and their wives and children. Talk about reliving old times! *(The story continues on page 27, but here are the photographs)*



Class of '68 members at the hostel braai

Back row: (L-R) Rick Petersen, Roger Turner, Alan Deane, Paul Bland, Sybrand van den Berg, P P Brandt, Herkie van Niekerk, Maarten Bootsma.

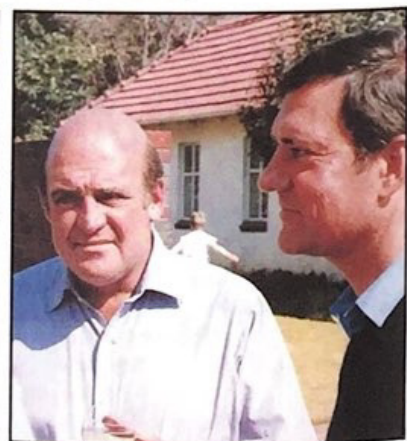
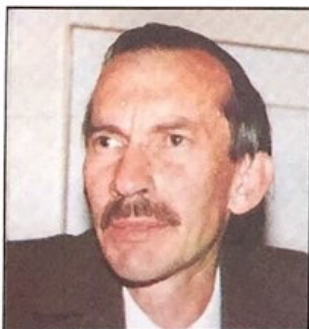
Front row: Johan Welton, Frans Banting, Tom Kruse, Roy Meintjies, Maryke Henton, Peter Shires, Niek van der Merwe, Shan Thomas, Dave Moore, Rob Taylor, John Norman.



Left: Pete and Jenny Shires at Lombardy's

Below left: Prof Dick Loveday and Peter Shires share a joke.

Below right: John Welton and Dave Moore at the braai.



Above left: François Malan looking serious but in fact making his hilarious "class captain" speech at Lombardy's. Left: Marijke Henton at the braai.

CLASS OF 28 -- REUNION

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Saturday morning began in the cafeteria in the new Sir Arnold Theiler academic building. Joining the group were some of our former lecturers including Prof Daan Smit who had travelled up all the way from his farm in the Orange Free State!

From there we moved up to the 6th floor roof of the building for a panoramic view of a vastly changed Onderstepoort from 21 years ago. The new Pathology/Veterinary Public Health building, the large new Veterinary Teaching Hospital currently under construction as also the new Anatomy buildings all created a feeling of excitement and dynamism. Inside the Theiler building the new library, arguably one of the finest veterinary libraries in the world, was a feature of the tour around the faculty, and along with all the new enough of the old buildings to bring back memories of clinics, cases and people.

After the morning tour a braai at the hostel with classmates, former lecturers, spouses and children proved to be great fun. OP Student House Committee members tended fires, barbecued meat and generally looked after their "older colleagues" and earned the appreciation of everyone. Keeping up the pace, a visit to the De Wildt cheetah farm followed the braai. And following this an hour or two to spruce up and then to Lombardy's restaurant for drinks and formal dinner. Lombardy's put on a great show. The food, wine and atmosphere was excellent, enhanced further by toasts to absent friends and great speeches from former class captains John Welton and François Malan ("tears rolling down the cheeks" type stuff!!) Needless to say the evening went on till the small hours of Sunday morning to the extent that the Sunday program was cancelled through lack of support!

The good news is therefore that the Class of '68 is in great shape. Of the 38 people in the final year class photo 30 made it to a part or all of the week-end, all members of the class are alive and well and contributing to veterinary science in numerous different ways and appear intent on doing so for many years to come!

Financial contributions to the week-end reunion were made by the companies Bayer, Fisher Vet, Investec, Phenix, Salsbury and SmithKline & French which greatly reduced the cost of the week-end to each class member. The Class of '68 extends its sincere thanks and appreciation to each one of these companies for contributing so generously to this fun-filled and enriching week-end.

P Bland-van den Berg