

STEVENSON

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

EFREM "SKIP" ZIMBALIST III '64

*Pursuing
Passions &
Following
His Dreams*

**The Inside
Scoop with
Greg Foster**

**ALUMNI
SPOTLIGHT
SHINES ON**

Bob Keats '65
Todd Benton '82
Yuri Hauswald '88
Stefanie (Moore) Lyon '91
Josh Bonifas '94
Ryan Anthony Flagg '95
Alessandra Benton '06
Ryan Hambley '07
Ben Holber '07

**ANNUAL
REPORT
ISSUE**

Investing in
Our Adventure
in Learning

**THE
PIRATE
REVIEW**

Alumni Efforts
Culminate in Wine,
a Carmel Landmark,
Trip-Hop, and a
Children's Storybook

**THE FUTURE OF
THE U.S. ECONOMY**

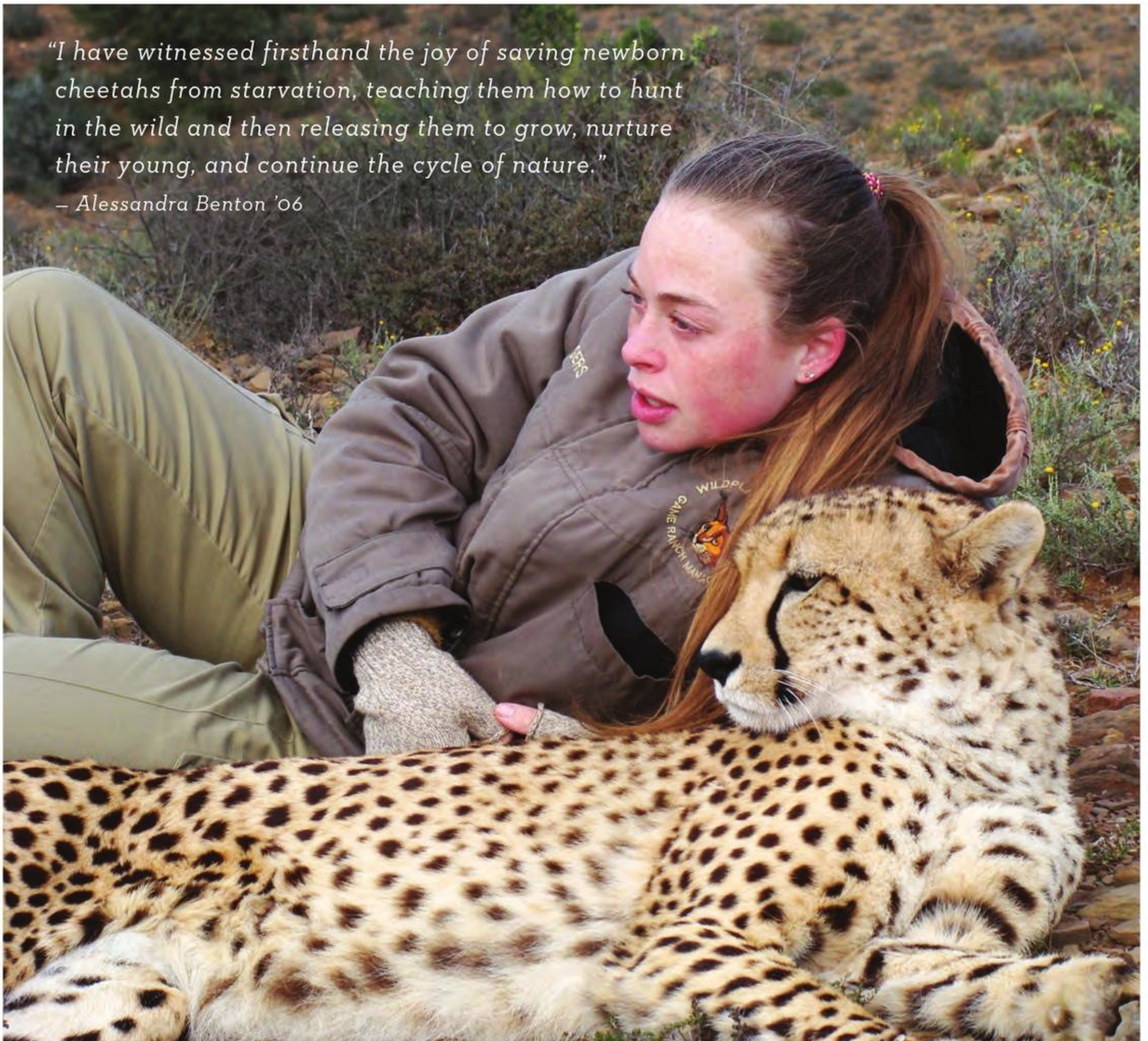
LEE E. OHANIAN '75 SHARES HIS PERSPECTIVE

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Get the inside scoop on alumni who shine with their exceptional personal achievements in business, philanthropy, environmentalism, social media, and racing.

"I have witnessed firsthand the joy of saving newborn cheetahs from starvation, teaching them how to hunt in the wild and then releasing them to grow, nurture their young, and continue the cycle of nature."

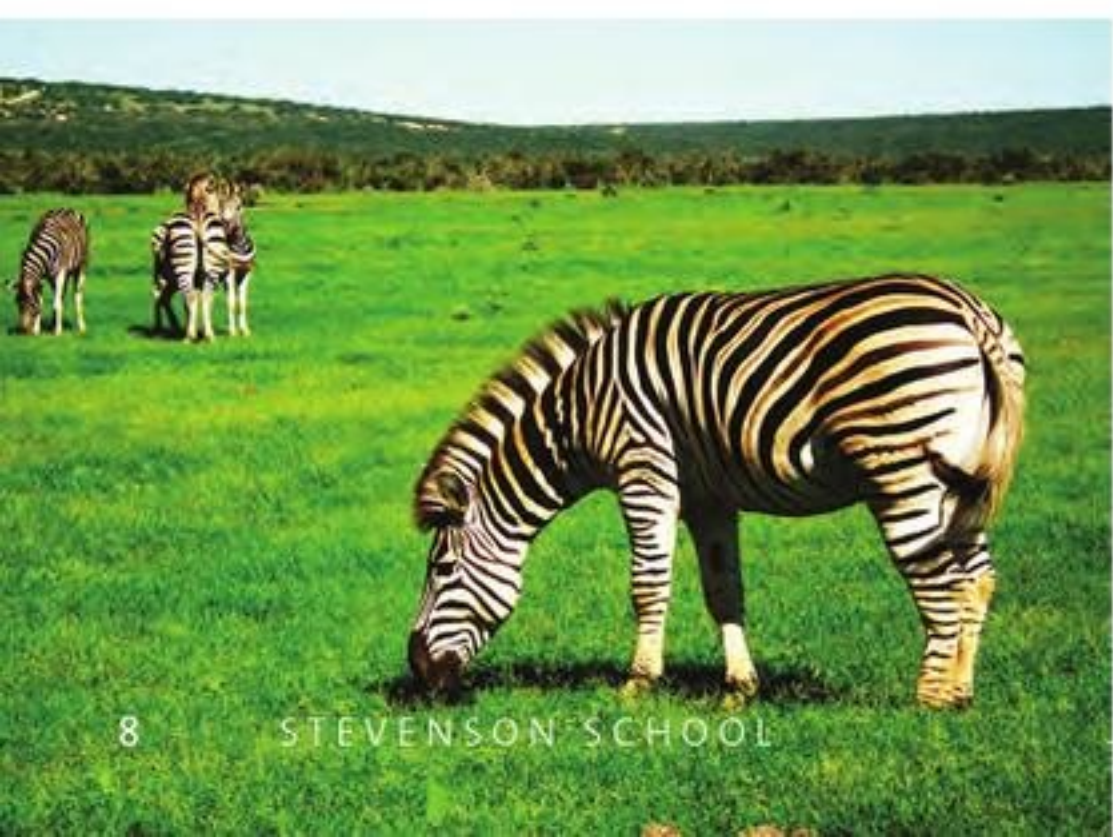
– Alessandra Benton '06



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

CONNECTING FOR A CAUSE

TODD BENTON '82 • RYAN ANTHONY FLAGG '95
ALESSANDRA BENTON '06



Alessandra Benton '06 has been dreaming of Africa since she was 5 years old. She remembers telling her mother that one day she would travel to Africa, live on a game reserve, and save and breed endangered animals back into the wild. It's interesting enough to say that Alessandra is indeed living her childhood dream today as a safari game ranger, wildlife photographer, and conservationist on the Eastern Cape of South Africa, but this story goes deeper, involving global alumni connections, the power of social media, and a commitment to making a difference.

"I have witnessed firsthand the joy of saving newborn cheetahs from starvation, teaching them how to hunt in the wild and then releasing them to grow, nurture their young, and continue the cycle of nature," says Alessandra, whose childhood dream has evolved into a goal of creating a wildlife reserve that rescues and rehabilitates injured and orphaned animals, while also offering online study programs, local educational outreach, and visiting internships.

Understanding the challenges of making her dream a reality, Alessandra reached out to two fellow alumni in the communications and media fields to help her share her message on a global level — **Todd Benton '82**, a consultant, web designer, and Alessandra's half-brother; and **Ryan Flagg '95**, a social media expert.

The three alumni (Todd and Ryan had never met in person) came together via a Skype conference call in June of this year, and began creating a plan to help Alessandra share her beautiful images of African wildlife and her conservation dream.

From there, the three worked quickly and efficiently to help their fellow



schoolmate. Todd, after a three-month process of organizing hundreds of Alessandra's wildlife images, writing content, and testing various web designs, created a visually dynamic web page and gallery showcasing her mission and photography. Ryan outlined a communications strategy using social networking tools, such as Facebook and blogging platforms, to allow the world access to Alessandra's project and to inspire support of her effort. Today, Alessandra blogs regularly about her projects and cause, and can share her imagery and adventures with a global audience.

Alessandra, Todd, and Ryan plan to continue supporting and mentoring one another as the project moves forward in hopes of seeing one alumna's childhood dream become a reality.

Todd Benton '82 is a consultant and website designer at *BentonWebs*, and lives in *Bonsall, California*.

Ryan Flagg '95 is a social media expert and a donor advisor of *The Lori & Lou Flagg Memorial Youth Fund of the Community Foundation for Monterey County*. Ryan lives in *Pebble Beach, California* with his wife and daughter.

Alessandra Benton '06 lives in *Port Elizabeth, South Africa*. Her website is www.alessandrabenton.com. Alessandra also is on Facebook at www.facebook.com/alessandrabentonphotography.

Photos by **Alessandra Benton '06**
Article courtesy of *Carol Richmond*