



Elona Hillermann

*P O Box 55
Wartburg
3233*

*Telephone - 033-5031225
Facsimile - 033-5031528
Cellular - 083 458 6585
E-mail - elona@hillermann.co.za*

Tuesday, May 27, 2014

Brenda Eckstein
Edroy CC
P O Box 13366
Cascades
3202

Email: brenda@strategy-leadership.com

Dear Brenda

AN INSPIRATIONAL TALK IN 2010

Your talk on networking tactics at the PWC Women's Day Breakfast in August 2010 refers.

I was fortunate to be imparted with some networking tactics at your workshop at the PWC Women's Day in 2010. On that day you inspired us to do the extraordinary and to celebrate being a woman. I had a conversation with you after the workshop where you challenged me to achieve my goals! On that day you gave every one attending the breakfast a book written by yourself. In the front cover you wrote the following message:

"Dear Elona, 2013 here we come! May you be celebrating the achievement of your goals. Happy networking ~ Brenda. August 2010."

That was all I needed to push me the final distance and to register for a Degree in Psychological Counselling at UNISA. Since I consider being a mother as my first and foremost task, I only mentioned being a mother as my previous studies and submitted my matric certificate of 30 years previously. I had completed a BCom by the time I was 20 but thought if they accept me with a thirty year old matric certificate I will probably be okay. And after all....Brenda had challenged me to achieve my goals!

I have thoroughly enjoyed my studies at UNISA...doing interesting and coincidental things like in my first year with my first degree, I did the unthinkable and bunked a whole day of lectures in 1981 to watch the wedding of Charles and Diana. In 2011, exactly 30 years later, I again did the unthinkable in my first year of studies of my second degree. I took the whole day off of my study plan and watched William wed his Catherine. I have been stimulated and encouraged, I have grown and I have matured and have enjoyed every moment of it. In my final year my subjects included Christian Social Ethics, Contemporary Criminological Issues, Social Psychology, Abnormal Behaviour and Mental Health, Research, Transformative Counselling Encounters, Community Psychology, Postmodern Philosophy of Religion and Faith Philosophy and Science.

I would like to thank you for the incredible influence you have been in my recent life. Unbeknown to you, through your influence, on that day in August 2010, I finally had the courage to register for a degree, a dream I had harboured for some time. I am grateful for the release of that ship in that harbour on that day and I have enjoyed the voyage. I am as yet not sure of which harbour I am heading to, with this direction my life has taken but, one thing I am sure of is that coincidences happen for a reason. I am also more aware than ever before, that our actions and words unknowingly influence others and how we need to take full responsibility for all our actions.

On Thursday evening when I proudly walk across the stage and receive my degree I will have one silent thought for you dear Brenda and that will be "May you be as richly blessed in your life by someone special as you touched my life".

Once again thank you for the soulful encounter in August 2010. May you continue to be a blessing to the many people whose lives you unknowingly touch!

Kind Regards

Elona

Elona Hillermann