

# DEVELOPMENT BRIEF

Volume 13 • Number 2 • September 2017

The magazine of the University of KwaZulu-Natal Foundation



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**FOUNDATION**

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*Cover:* Students on the Westville campus

*Photo credit:* Brendan Boyce

*Inside cover:* Students on Howard College campus

*Photo credit:* Albert Hirasen



## Message from the Executive Director

*Professor  
Anesh Maniraj Singh*

The year thus far has been very exciting for our fundraising team as we have been warmly welcomed by a number of new donors and donor prospects, both local and international, to present our various projects to them. As part of our internal marketing, we have held roadshows with all the College Management Committees and will soon complete the School Board meetings. At the roadshows, we have highlighted the services we provide and some of the successful fundraising initiatives which we manage. A significant accomplishment is the growth in bursaries donated up to 30th June 2017. Bursaries accounted for 36% of our income and comprised the leading cause supported thus far. We are grateful that donors have risen to the call of the Foundation to provide access to higher education for the leaders of tomorrow.

The University strategy 2017-2021 has been approved and as such we will be aligning our fundraising to support the four research flagships: African Health, Big Data and Informatics, African Cities of the Future and Social Cohesion. However, we will not deviate from our regular initiatives which include bursaries, teaching support, disability, infrastructure and the endowment fund.

Our website has recently been revamped to facilitate easy online donations. I encourage you to visit our website, <http://foundation.ukzn.ac.za/> If you have not made a personal donation as yet, please click on the **Donate Now** button to make a donation to one of our many worthy initiatives.



# *ABSA Bank changes the lives of 252 students*

ABSA Bank recently made a generous donation of R 10 million, which will change the lives of 252 financially needy students at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). Senior officials of ABSA Bank, the University and the local business community were present at the handover event, which took place at the Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban. The event took the format of a panel discussion that addressed the issue of funding of higher education. A question and answer session and then the formal cheque handover followed the discussion.

Through this donation, ABSA Bank demonstrated its long-term commitment to supporting access to higher education for historically disadvantaged persons who meet the criteria of academic merit but do not have the financial resources to make their dreams of a tertiary education a reality.

UKZN Student Representative Council (SRC) President, Ms Noxolo Bhengu, who was one of the panelists, spoke passionately about the need for all stakeholders to get involved in solving the higher education funding challenge. She related the struggles of ordinary students, who were forced to share textbooks, walk long distances to class and share cramped accommodation due to limited funding. While thanking ABSA for their generous contribution, she highlighted the greater need of the student body in this regard. She further encouraged other corporates to follow the lead of ABSA by investing in the youth.

UKZN's Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Albert van Jaarsveld, commended the financial support of ABSA and emphasised the positive impact that the bursaries would have on the recipients. In expressing the importance of solving the student funding challenge at UKZN, Dr van Jaarsveld indicated that the UKZN was redoubling its efforts to seek alternative and new funding streams for bursaries and other needs at UKZN.

ABSA's Group Head of Citizenship, Ms Sazini Mojapelo, expressed ABSA's commitment to skills development across the economy. "It is only through investment in skills development at all levels as well as at university level that ABSA could meet its commitment to a shared growth model both locally and nationally". The unveiling of the CEO's scholarship fund was a tangible step in this direction.

• *Brendan Boyce*



*Left to right: ABSA's Group Head of Citizenship, Ms Sazini Mojapelo, Executive Director UKZN Foundation, Prof Anesh Singh, UKZN's Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Albert van Jaarsveld, Provincial Head Business Banking KZN, Ms Bonita Field, and UKZN Student Representative Council (SRC) President, Ms Noxolo Bhengu*

*Photo credit: Albert Hirasen*



Back row from left: Director at Willowton Group, Mr Abdul Razak Moosa; UKZN Vice Chancellor and Principal, Dr Albert van Jaarsveld; Mr Farouk Moosa, Willowton Group and Ms Yonelisa Mbuzi  
Front row from left: 2017 recipients of the Willowton Group scholarship, Tholigunya Ngwabe, Lwazi Dladla, Zethembe Ngcobo, Mthokozisi Madondo, Sindiswa Magwaza, Babuse Mthethwa

Photo credit: Albert Hirasen

## Willowton Group UKZN bursary students flourishing

The seven University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) students who received bursaries from Pietermaritzburg-based Willowton Group are taking full advantage of this incredibly generous donation. Mr Abdul Razak Moosa, Executive Director at Willowton Group, presented the first cheque of R1 million to the University earlier this year with R 4 million to be contributed over the next four years.

“The #feesmustfall campaign, which disrupted education in 2015 and 2016, highlighted the need for corporate business to become more involved, by financially assisting those without the resources to improve their education”, explained Mr Moosa. “Our company has made a decision to increase support for education and this donation is being made to deserving students who would not otherwise have the opportunity to attend university”.

All seven students – studying for science and technology qualifications at the Pietermaritzburg campus – have received bursaries for their first year of tuition with an additional four recipients set to receive bursaries in each of the remaining four years. In addition to the tuition fees, the bursary will cover residence fees as well as a meal, book and laptop allowances. The bursaries are valid for the duration of the degree, subject to the student passing at the end of each year.

Using the funds donated, the UKZN Foundation has created the Willowton Group Bursary Fund, which will ensure continuity over time, assisting financially disadvantaged engineering and technology students from the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science.

Expressing her gratitude at the bursary award ceremony, Yonelisa Mbuzi – one of the bursary recipients – said she would not have, otherwise, been

able to attend university. “This bursary will give me financial security to concentrate on studying towards my degree and achieving my career goals,” said an ecstatic Mbuzi. “Once qualified, it is my aim to give back to the community”.

Commenting on the donation, Dr Albert van Jaarsveld, the UKZN Vice-Chancellor and Principal, said, “On behalf of council, staff and students, I would like to thank Willowton Group for their generous support”. He added that many academically sound students have difficulties funding their studies and that this would provide welcome financial relief to those students and their families.

“Willowton Group has always prioritised education, sponsoring various initiatives to give back to the South African community,” continued Mr Moosa. “These include science and maths kits to increase the number of school learners graduating in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The company also set up a school Bursary Fund and the Sunfoil Education Trust which make bursaries available to deserving students”.

• Ms Lauren Anthony

## *Post-doctoral scholarship develops young scientists*

The future strength and sustainability of our public university system can only be secured by ensuring that bright young scientists are attracted to and remain in the public university system. The Department of Science and Technology and its partners are committed to building and growing what is commonly referred to as the knowledge economy in South Africa. UKZN's Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC) for Research, Prof Deresh Ramjungernuth, commented, "Developing and nurturing future academics is both time and resource intensive. In this regard, the consistent and loyal support of the Claude Leon Foundation has been invaluable in investing in the area of human capacity development at UKZN".

The Claude Leon Foundation derives from a bequest by Claude Leon, and has been funding educational, developmental and human rights projects in South Africa since 1972. This Foundation has made grant commitments in 2017 totalling in excess of R 60 million supporting tertiary and non-tertiary education, constitutionalism and human rights and youth development in South African. The Foundation's principal programmes are its Postdoctoral Fellowships in the Sciences, Honours Bursaries and Merit Awards for Junior Lecturers, non-tertiary education programmes, Human Rights programmes, Youth Development programmes and the Chairman's discretionary fund. Over the years, the Foundation has made grants totalling well in excess of R 100 million for its Postdoctoral programme. The flagship Postdoctoral Fellowship programme in the Sciences has funded nearly 500 research scientists at South African Universities since 1998.

During 2016 to 2017, the UKZN received some 10 postdoctoral scholarships from the Claude Leon Foundation. These are generous awards to recent doctoral graduates in the amount of R 275 000 per annum and aim to support these

young researchers to develop their publication record. During this period, these young researchers are expected to publish original research arising from their studies. These awards are normally for a period of one year and are renewable based on research outputs achieved during this appointment period. Dr Vijay Kumar from the School of Life Sciences in Pietermaritzburg commented, "By landing the Claude Leon postdoctoral scholarship I have the opportunity to become an independent researcher capable of every step of professional research. This scholarship will allow me to publish my results in international journals and to present them to conference meetings. This will not only enhance my career but will allow me to establish scientific collaborations".

It is the consistent support of higher education, which has assisted the UKZN in particular to develop advanced research capabilities in the Sciences. The Chairman of the Foundation, Mr Bill Frankel, commented, "The funding of tertiary education and research, particularly the training of a new generation of scientists, is a priority of the Claude Leon Foundation. This success is one of our greatest achievements".

• *Brendan Boyce*



**Prof van Staden and Claude Leon Post-doctoral scholar, Dr Vijay Kumar**

**Photo credit: Brendan Boyce**



**From left to right: Wiseman Jack, Dr Saleem Badat, Kwasi Owusu-Aduomi, Arnold Dhanesar, Roshni Dhanesar, Mandy Sewpersadh, Cheetah Haysom and Prof Anesh Singh**

Photo credit: Supplied

## ***Executive Director engages with alumni in New York***

As part of the Foundation strategy to get closer to our donors, I visited New York in May to meet with donors – both old and new. My meetings took me to various parts of New York City which included visits to the Carnegie Corporation, Mellon Foundation, Voss Foundation, the Foundation Centre and the Population Council, among others. I was received warmly by all my hosts who expressed an interest in working with the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) in the near future.

Meeting Dr Saleem Badat, Program Director at the Mellon Foundation and an alumnus of UKZN, was most enlightening. Dr Badat outlined a number of Mellon programmes that UKZN could be involved in. He emphasised the need to “participate in interdisciplinary and international collaboration on grand challenge questions”. The meeting with Dr Badat also set the scene for my next engagement with alumni residing in New York.

A group of alumni met at the King Baudouin Foundation New York office. Dr Saleem Badat was the guest speaker. He spoke of the challenges in funding higher education in South Africa and the role that the alumni need to play. He encouraged those present to support their *alma mater* as in his opinion it is a good institution that has a major role to play in transforming South Africa. Dr Badat shared his own personal challenges accessing funding for his studies and the role that benefactors had played in him succeeding in his academic journey. Many of the attendees could identify with his story as they shared similar experiences and challenges to fund

their studies. The attendees all pledged to make a contribution to the University.

Mandy Sewpersadh who now works in New York was most inspired by the event and offered to be our contact in New York to help us connect with our alumni. Kwasi Owusu-Aduomi shared some ideas of how he could spread the UKZN Foundation message among his work colleagues.

One of my last visits was with the Consul General of South Africa in New York, Her Excellency Ms Mathula Nkosi. Ms Nkosi, an alumnus of UKZN, was pleased to hear of my visit to New York and offered to host the 2018 gathering at the Consulate.

I wish to express my gratitude to Hafeezah Rashed for assisting me with the alumni function and to the King Baudouin Foundation for allowing us the use of their facilities. With the goodwill shared on this trip, I eagerly await my visit to New York in 2018.

• *Anesh Maniraj Singh*

# Foundation paints classrooms for Mandela Day

In recent commemoration of Nelson Mandela Month and our expressions on what has been achieved since the launch and celebration of International Nelson Mandela Month, it has been both inspirational and reassuring to be part of the University of KwaZulu-Natal's involvement and contribution towards this worthy cause.

Our staff at the UKZN Foundation, Campus Management Services and a number of University Executives, made a tangible difference to children's well-being at the Wiggins Road Primary School in Cato Manor on Mandela Day. The school that we had identified was under-resourced and in urgent need of assistance and intervention.

Our staff teams participated in a day filled with hands-on fun and hard work. Our project focus was on the improvement of resources and ensuring that the classrooms at the school were conducive to teaching and learning. Dressed in our painting gear, each team had a designated classroom to work in. Carrying our own equipment and supplies, each team repaired and prepared each classroom for the final paint. With paintbrushes in hand, the teams proceeded to transform the learning environments. We rubbed down and varnished desks; mopped and cleaned up floors. Spurred on by the children's arrival back at school and the satisfaction of knowing that we had contributed in some small way to providing the learners with a much needed improvement in their learning environment, we could hardly wait to see the look of glee on their tiny faces.

These initiatives have highlighted the incredible work ethic and community spirit of our staff and have also highlighted that when we work together as a collective, we can achieve anything, and contribute positively to the well-being and success of our communities.

Mandela Month calls on all of us to make a difference and to make the world a better place and while we commemorate this initiative for only one day, we would like everyone to consider making every day a "Mandela Day" and to keep Mandela's legacy alive in a real way that will bring about positive and lasting change.

The philosophy of Mandela Month calls on all of us to experience the joy of service and the more we practise what Mandela's legacy is truly about, the more we can make the 67 minutes last longer, bringing about the lasting peace in our communities, dignity to all and setting the country on a journey full of hope and prosperity for all.

• Nadia Paul



UKZN volunteers hard at work at Wiggins Road Primary School in Cato Manor

Photo credit: Albert Hirasen

## *AGRA: Building plant breeding capacity in Africa*

The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa's (AGRA) capacity building efforts on the continent are a significant component of its 10-year journey of shared success. This success has seen over 750 specialists in plant breeding and soil management trained at MSc and PhD level to support national research organisations and to build capacity for agricultural systems across countries. The bulk of the funding has come from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and the Rockefeller Foundation (RF), with other donors including Howard Buffet and the Swedish International Aid.

AGRA has contributed more than \$14 million towards plant breeding training at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). The UKZN's School of Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Science (SAEES) was selected to pioneer an MSc plant breeding programme (August 2014-July 31 2019) to train plant breeders for Africa because of its high concentration of plant breeders, and the success it has seen in the African Centre for Crop Improvement (ACCI). The ACCI is a centre in SAEES also supported by AGRA which has been training PhD students in plant breeding on a similar model for almost 15 years. To date, the ACCI has graduated 85 PhDs in plant breeding from different African countries, including South Africa.

The MSc programme is a collaborative effort between Iowa State University and three African Universities: UKZN, South Africa (Southern

Africa), Makerere University, Uganda (East Africa) and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana (West Africa). The programme at UKZN aims at training 30 plant breeders at the MSc level from the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The students are trained hands-on in the plant breeding programme at UKZN and the public and private partner institutions in SADC (6-12 month internships). This provides students with practical knowledge of applying modern technologies to reduce the breeding cycles, managing spatial and temporal variation in field trials, and advanced trial designs. Students also learn hands-on how to use the Breeding Management Systems (BMS) to manage plant breeding information systems. The MSc programme at UKZN has graduated seven students from its first cohort of 2015.

• *Dr Julia Sibiyá*



*MSc student, Mwiinga Mulube inspecting his trial*

*Photo credit: Supplied*





Left to right: Sizwe Sidaza, Vice Chancellor Dr Albert van Jaarsveld and Sivashen Reddy

Photo credit: Albert Hirasen

## *UKZN grows funds for student support*

Every year the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) holds a Scholarship Awards evening. This event recognises the top performing students based on academic excellence and sporting achievement. The 2017 awards evening which took place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 2017, represented the culmination of many hours of study, sacrifice and focused effort on the part of the scholarship recipients who were honoured at the function. Mr Michael Davids, who heads the Student Funding division, stated, "This year UKZN was able to make scholarship awards to the value of R 156 million due to the generous contribution of the many partners who have consistently supported the twin priorities of student access and academic excellence".

UKZN has numerous prestigious scholarships, which are awarded on a highly competitive merit basis. This showcases the academic talent which UKZN has been able to attract.

Mr Davids commented, "It is significant to note that donor contributions to student support have been increasing exponentially over the past few years. This has had an enormous positive impact for UKZN". This year the UKZN Student Funding division has been able to make over 29 000 awards of full or part scholarships, loans and bursaries available to the student body.

Donor support has assisted the University to establish and maintain a number of named scholarships, which include the Pius Langa and Frene Ginwala Scholarship for undergraduates. The Pius Langa Scholarship is awarded to top performing new undergraduate entrants and is named after the renowned former Chief Justice of South Africa. The Pius Langa Scholarship

awardees are ranked in the top 10 by the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Education Department National Senior Certificate (NCS) or top nationally in the Independent Examination Board (IEB) examinations. The Frene Ginwala Scholarship which is named after the first Chancellor of the UKZN who was also the Speaker of Parliament, is a special equity award made to top Black African female entrants coming into the University as new undergraduate students in all disciplines.

At the postgraduate level, the Archbishop Denis E Hurley Educational Trust has provided a suite of scholarships dedicated to disadvantaged but academically excellent candidates to read for an Honour's degree.

The UKZN Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Albert van Jaarsveld, addressed the event and expressed his thanks to all stakeholders including donors, parents, guardians and communities supporting UKZN students by saying, "We salute you for investing in the future of our young people and the future of our country".

• *Brendan Boyce and Sithembile Shabangu*



Left to right: KNUCS attendees Dr Rudi Kimmie, Dr Albert van Jaarsveld, Prof Cristina Trois, Mr Kevan Rocher and Mr Rudi von Fintel  
 Photo credit: Supplied

## #KNUCS cares!

The Hub for the African City of the Future (AfriHub) recently hosted a cocktail evening to boost the value of public-private sector collaboration through highlighting the KwaZulu-Natal University Civil Support (KNUCS) fund initiative. Held in the brand new fluid dynamics laboratory at Howard College's Centenary Building, alumni and company representatives from civil engineering, construction and consulting sectors, reminisced on the past, forged new friendships and were updated on innovative and exciting developments at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN).

The KNUCS Fund has a long and fruitful history. In 1989, the Class of 1961, under the encouragement of former class member and then Head of Department, Prof Geoff Pegram, established the Natal University Civil Support Fund Support Group (NUCS). The purpose of the group was to raise funds for the subvention of academic salaries in the Civil Engineering Programme.

Renamed the KNUCS Fund, these monies are now managed by a steering committee of representatives from the Civil Engineering Programme, the School of Engineering at UKZN, the KZN Branch of Consulting Engineers South Africa (CESA) and the South African Forum of Civil Engineering Contractors (SAFCEC) as well as the Engineering Unit at the eThekweni Municipality.

The aim of the KNUCS Fund is to grow teaching and research excellence by supporting scholarship and academic skills at the University. The fund ensures the sustainability of UKZN's Civil Engineering programme

by attracting funding and in-kind support from corporates and individuals within the civil engineering, construction and consulting sectors.

The guests of honour in attendance at the function were: UKZN Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Albert Van Jaarsveld; Dean of Engineering, Prof Cristina Trois; Discipline Leader, Prof Derek Stretch; and Managing Director of Raubex KZN and Chairman of the KNUCS Fund, Mr Kevan Rocher.

The event was sponsored by Raubex, a heavy construction sector company with a focus on infrastructure development that operates across Africa. 'Supporting KNUCS benefits the University and the Civil Engineering industry,' said van Jaarsveld. 'When channelled through the UKZN Foundation, all donations to the KNUCS Fund qualify for Section 18A Tax Exemption status and earn BBBEE scorecard points.'

• Steve Camp and Prashina Budree

# Essilor promotes 20/20 vision

In an ongoing effort to support the growth of the local optometric industry, Essilor South Africa is committed to assisting tertiary institutions by supplying critical resources. In 2017, the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) Discipline of Optometry was provided with 25 trial lens cases valued at R75 000. This equipment will be used at the clinics on the university campus as well as at the local clinic and hospitals.

The Discipline of Optometry holds both in-house and external eye clinics throughout the academic year. These clinics deliver eye care at an affordable rate to a community of people who ordinarily would not have had any access to affordable eye care. In addition to supporting the discipline's efforts at community outreach level, UKZN holds valuable teaching clinics, where undergraduate students get the opportunity to practise eye care service delivery by performing the necessary tests under the supervision of qualified optometric staff.

The external clinics include vision tests being convened by students at McCord Eye Hospital, Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital, Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Narain Jeawon Vedic Centre, and the Phelophepa Health Care Train.

Vision screening tests are also done on campus as well as at various community centres and pre-schools. General vision screening and school vision screening are also carried out by UKZN students as requested by

NGOs, schools and other stakeholders in eye health. The donation of this essential equipment from Essilor assists with the sustainability of these clinical programmes.

As the long-standing world leader in ophthalmic optics, the Essilor Group is committed to developing vision care solutions that help to correct and protect the individual vision needs of the 7.4 billion people in the world. To achieve this ambition, Essilor's mission is to improve lives by improving sight. Part of the Essilor mission is to innovate to reduce our environmental footprint as well as to engage in dialogue with our many stakeholders to uphold ethical business dealings.

This project captures Essilor's biggest challenge in terms of sustainable development, which is providing everyone with access to quality vision care. This partnership with UKZN assists Essilor to impact local communities by providing access to quality eye care.

• *Natasha Willnecker and Diane Van Staden*



**Dr Diane van Staden and students testing the new equipment**

Photo credit: Brendan Boyce



# Enabling Accessibility

UKZN is home to more than 700 disabled students with disabilities ranging from minor visual impairments to students with multiple disabilities. All our campuses need to be retrofitted to enable our disabled students to enjoy the campus environment like all our students. In order to enable accessibility, we need to raise R11 million.

**Your generous donation of at least R100 per month will make a major difference in the lives of our disabled students. Scan the code now to make an online donation.**

Alternatively make a deposit at your nearest bank using the following details:

The University of KwaZulu-Natal Foundation Trust, Standard Bank,  
Account No: 242 095 305, Westville Branch, Business Current Account.  
Reference: Disability

PBO Number: 9300 12812



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