



TRUST NEWS

Winter 2011/12



Student thanks donors for award of Margaret Thomas Scholarship

A BA Psychology student, Paige Frankson, has written to the Trustees to thank the Trust and its donors for their support after she was given the Margaret Thomas Scholarship for 2011.

"Receiving this award means a great deal to me as it greatly eases my family's financial burden and is a good reminder that hard work has its rewards," says Paige.

She is in her second year of study and has done very well in her mid-year exams. Paige, 19, hopes to go on to post-graduate study, specialising in clinical, biological or cognitive psychology. She says: "I have always been interested in psychology, especially in the mental processes that influence human behaviour and the extent to which groups and individuals influence our social and personal identities."

Paige adds: "I am also majoring in English as I have always had a fondness for reading and writing, and the ideas and nuances that form the written word."

As reported in the previous issue of Trust News, Paige is the first recipient of the Scholarship after the assistance was converted from a Bursary set up in memory of the late Margaret Thomas, who was a driving force behind the Trust. The first recipient of the Margaret Thomas Bursary was Valoshnee Gounden, who graduated last year with excellent results.

TRUSTEES: Roger Smith (Chair); Tess Marsh (Secretary); Richard Cooper (Treasurer); Penny Holmes; Lorna Nimmo; Atholl Swainston-Harrison.

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Girls give 'wizard' performance for South Africa House guests

The Durban Girls' College Choir and Orchestra managed to circumvent Harry Potter mania on London's Trafalgar Square to stage a well-received concert at South Africa House in aid of the Trust.



About 100 people attended the event in July, the highlight of a

fortnight-long tour by the girls to the UK and Ireland. But performers and guests were unable to get into South Africa House via the main entrance because of the crush of Potter fans outside and had to find their way in through a side entrance. The girls – many of them Potter fans themselves – were given a wonderful although brief grandstand view of the wizardry going on in the Square from an upper window before they had to go on to prepare for their concert.

The choir and orchestra performed a varied programme over an hour, including a unique "collage" of traditional African song and dance. Some numbers required audience participation, including waving the arms and ululating, or joining in beside the piano to sing with the choir. The guests took part enthusiastically. The choir was conducted by Ronel Perks, the orchestra by Ted Brien and piano accompaniment was by Kim Siedle.

DGC, established more than 100 years ago, has a rich performing arts heritage and its choir performs regularly within the local community. See the school's website at www.dgc.co.za for more information.

The Trustees are grateful for the donations to the Trust that came in as a result of the concert, with proceeds totalling £573.

REMEMBER US WHEN CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS!

Please tell the Trust whenever you change your postal or e-mail address. The Trust will pass the details on to the Alumnus Office, which provides the address labels used for Trust mailings.

Students tell of challenges, hopes and ambitions

The Trustees hear many stories of hardship among students at UKZN, underlining the vital difference that Trust bursaries can make.

For example, one student says both his parents died before he was two, he never knew his siblings, who have also died, and that the relation who has taken care of him is a domestic worker who is currently unemployed. "This is just half the things," he says, thanking the Trust for giving him the chance to shine through its support.

Another, explaining her motivation for studying to become a social worker, says: "I don't want other children to experience what I've experienced, coming from a rural area with no social workers and a high number of orphans with no shelter or food to eat."

Against such backgrounds, the Trustees have been impressed by the students' determination to succeed in their studies. Here is a sample of comments from some of the 13 students being assisted this year, apart from the two already mentioned above:

Zethembe Mseleku, 19, says he chose to study for a Bachelor's degree in Community Development as he is "the product of a disadvantaged community" and he wants to contribute to development and the improvement of people's standards of living. He says he most enjoys working with people and wants to give something back to his community.



Merusha Naidoo, 20, studying for a Bachelor of Social Science degree, says she enjoys interacting with people from all walks of life and would like to pursue a career in Marketing. She says in a letter to the Trust: "Thank you for bringing me a step closer to my goal and for motivating me to work harder in getting there. "

Nombulelo Mngadi, 19, is studying for a Bachelor of Social Work degree because she believes social workers can help deprived people to achieve a brighter future. She says: "Making a difference in one [person's] life can change a community as a whole."

Nombulelo wants to work with children, particularly those who are orphans, HIV+, suffering from TB or disabled. "My personal goals are to motivate, understand, cherish and give skills to the future generation," she declares.



THE TRUST NEEDS YOUR IN-PUT!

The Trustees have a number of ideas for fundraising activities but sometimes it is hard to gauge the likely level of return on the effort.

For example, we are considering whether to stage a fundraising social event in London such as a dance or ceilidh. Could you please e-mail info@ukznuktrust.org to let us know whether you would be interested in attending such an event and at what price?

If you have any fundraising ideas yourself, we would be pleased to hear them too. All feedback from supporters is welcome.

News from the Trust – on the web

The Trust has a website with the latest news on its work, as well as information for donors.

The site includes details of how the Trust supports needy students and carries links to related bodies.



Please check out the site – and visit it regularly for the latest news. You will find it at:

www.ukznuktrust.org

Please boost the Trust's funds when you want to buy flowers



The Trust is part of a scheme for charities run by Guernsey Flowers Ltd. Customers who order flowers on the www.charityflowers.co.uk website can select the Trust as the charity they want to receive 15% of the retail price.

So, the next time you need to order flowers for any occasion, please remember the Trust and go to:

www.charityflowers.co.uk

Full details about how to order can be found on the website. Please remember to select the code for the UKZN UK Trust from the dropdown menu when entering your order details.