



# TRUST NEWS

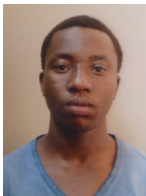
Winter 2014-15

## Students' tales underline need to support the Trust

Being awarded a Trust bursary has "changed my life" and "given my parents a breathing space". This is just one of the typical comments in letters of thanks received from the 15 students being helped this year.



Bursars talk of humble backgrounds where their families struggle with the financial burden of trying to fund their studies despite problems such as unemployment and poor health. The students' commitment to succeeding and not letting down their families and the Trust's donors is very strong.



A desire to give something back to their often impoverished communities is commonly held. For example, **Sbusiso Chiliza** (left), a student of medicine, speaks of working in his district hospital and serving his community. But, going further, he laments the shortage of doctors in rural areas and wants to help find financial support for students of health sciences in the future.

Social Science student **Zodwa Mkize**, majoring in psychology, tells of her desire to help the sufferers of depression, anxiety and various psychological disorders in deprived rural communities. She does voluntary work in her spare time at a YMCA-run children's home

She talks of wanting to put a smile on people's faces, adding: ->

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TRUSTEES: Roger Smith (Chair); Tess Marsh (Secretary); Richard Cooper (Treasurer); Penny Holmes; Frank Kantor; Lorna Nimmo.

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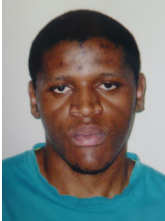
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# Students' tales...

"When I grew up I witnessed a variety of issues in my community and others nearby that stole the smile that I desire to be always there."



Zodwa (right) says she grew up with three siblings being cared for by her grandmother.



**Xolani Vilakazi**, studying for a BA degree, says he has five siblings and is the first to be able to study at university. He is grateful to have supportive parents, adding: "One source of my dedication to my studies is to be able to grant my younger siblings the opportunity of attending a tertiary education institution."

Xolani says he developed an interest in philosophy and the social sciences from frequent visits to the local library while at school. He is keen to pursue a career in law or politics.

**Thabo Majoro**, pursuing an LLB degree, is keen to focus on criminal law. He wishes to become known as a lawyer who stands up for human rights and would like to act for those who cannot afford legal representation.



He adds: "I would love to give back to disadvantaged students ... and help them with finances to complete their tertiary qualifications."

Another student speaks of the strain placed on her parents in having to pay for her studies in 2013 but she was able to make them proud by passing her exams. The Trust's bursary has made a vital difference at this stage of her education.

Yet another says: "Being granted the bursary gives me great relief ... It makes life much easier knowing that my fees are being taken care of and what is left is for me to do my best in getting good academic results, completing my degree and becoming somebody in life."

## ***Keep in touch!***

We urge alumni and supporters to make sure the UKZN Alumni Relations Office and the Trust have their up-to-date contact details, including an email address. Remember to email [alumni@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:alumni@ukzn.ac.za) and [info@ukznuktrust.org](mailto:info@ukznuktrust.org) with any changes. It is a good idea to add these two email addresses to your online contact lists so that emails are not rejected.

# Summer smiles on big day out in the Chilterns



Warm, sunny weather provided excellent conditions for the Chilterns day out. The event included the options of a long walk or a short one, followed by a braai/barbeque.

A small group of Trustees and Trust supporters were made welcome by the organisers, Steve and Tonia Bowley, whose Thembisa Trust backs community projects in

KwaZulu-Natal and elsewhere. We were delighted to have had the opportunity to mingle with the Thembisa Trust's supporters and to have enjoyed Steve and Tonia's hospitality.

A couple of dozen people took part in the long walk, led by Steve. Starting near Wendover, Bucks, the ramblers stopped at the Boer War memorial on Coombe Hill, with wonderful views across the countryside to the North and West. Passing through shady woods, they emerged near the Prime Minister's official country residence at Chequers (pic at right). They went on to lunch in the garden of The Plough at Cadsden (the pub where David Cameron's daughter once was left behind accidentally by her parents).



The other group enjoyed a shorter walk past lakes near Steve and Tonia's home at Tiddington, Oxfordshire. Everyone then gathered in the garden of their home for food and refreshments.

A presentation was made on the work of the Thembisa Trust, providing help to some desperately poor communities. The charity's patron, the actress Dame Janet Suzman, made a short speech praising its work. See [www.thembisatrust.org](http://www.thembisatrust.org)

Some money was raised for the Thembisa Trust but the UKZN UK Trust also benefited from donations which came in from well-wishers who sponsored members of our group on the walks.

Please show your support by making a donation.

## ***Remember you can now donate online***

It is easy to donate online using Virgin Money Giving. Simply go to [www.virginmoneygiving.com](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com) and search for the University of KwaZulu-Natal UK Trust. Go to the charity's page and follow the simple steps to make a donation. Other ways of giving can be found on the Trust's website (see below).



## **Please help raise funds for the Trust**



You can use Virgin Money Giving to create your own online sponsorship pages in aid of the Trust.

We urge you to bring in donations to the Trust through sponsored activities from marathon running to walks (such as the Chilterns day out – pictured) or sponsored events from concerts to birthday appeals.

Simply set up your page following the instructions at [www.virginmoneygiving.com](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com) and let friends, family and other potential sponsors know, as well as the Trust. We will be glad to assist.

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## ***Link up with the Trust online***

You can find the latest news about the Trust, as well as information for donors, on the charity's website at: [www.ukznuktrust.org](http://www.ukznuktrust.org)



A Facebook group, Friends of the University of KwaZulu-Natal UK Trust, is at: [www.facebook.com/groups/ukznuktrust](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ukznuktrust)

Trust Chair Roger Smith welcomes contacts from UK alumni and supporters via **LinkedIn**. See: [www.linkedin.com/in/rogersmithuksa](http://www.linkedin.com/in/rogersmithuksa)

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## **Buy flowers - help the Trust**



The Trust is part of a scheme for charities run by Guernsey Flowers Ltd. Customers who order flowers on their website can select the Trust as the charity they want to receive 15% of the retail price. The next time you need to buy flowers, go to:

[www.charityflowers.co.uk](http://www.charityflowers.co.uk)

