



TRUST NEWS

Summer 2011

Girls' concert at South Africa House to raise funds for Trust



The Durban Girls' College Choir is to stage a concert at South Africa House in London at 6.30pm on Thursday, July 7, in aid of the Trust.

The choir will perform a varied programme over an hour, including a unique "collage" of traditional African song and dance. They will be accompanied by Ted Brien, Kim Siedle and Ronél Perks. The event will be a highlight of a two-week tour by the choir to the UK and Ireland.

DGC, established more than 100 years ago, has a rich performing arts heritage and includes luminaries such as the late Elizabeth Sneddon among its former pupils. Its choir performs regularly within the local community, including with the KZN Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Richard Cock in the Playhouse Theatre, Durban, last year.

The school encourages music as a subject up to matric level and DGC girls selected for the choir's tours have a very high singing standard. See the school's website at www.dgc.co.za for more information.

To book a ticket for the concert, please e-mail the Trust at: info@ukznuktrust.org

There is no charge but donations to the Trust are requested. The Trustees look forward to seeing you at the concert.

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

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Trust to give support to 14 students this year

The Trust will be providing help for 14 students in 2011, a significant number but still down on the numbers it has assisted in recent years.

A hugely successful fundraising art exhibition, "Trust Artists", took place at St Paul's School in Barnes, South-West London, last autumn, raising £1,321 for the Trust. But, despite this, the Trust's current finances mean it has been forced to send

£1,000 less for student support this year than usual. Coupled with an exchange rate that continues to be less advantageous than it was a few years ago, there is simply less money available for the Trust's bursaries and the Margaret Thomas Scholarship.

The Trustees therefore call upon donors and alumni to give as much as they can to allow the Trust to support as many students as possible.

Margaret Thomas Bursary becomes Scholarship

The bursary set up in memory of the late Margaret Thomas, who was a driving force behind the Trust, has been converted into a needs-based scholarship, as a result of a recent decision by the Trustees.

The change followed talks with Richard Morrison, the Deputy Director of Bursaries and Scholarships at the University's Student Funding Centre. The Trustees felt it was necessary to ensure the student concerned could keep the award even in cases where they secured other funding. Until now, they would have had to give up the bursary.

The change comes into effect from this year. The Trustees have awarded the scholarship to Paige Frankson, a 19-year-old BA student, majoring in Psychology.

Student funding faces major shake-up, Chair is told

Significant changes to student funding arrangements are in hand, Trust Chair Roger Smith heard on a recent visit to the University.



Roger was delighted to be able to meet Richard Morrison at the Student Funding Centre and Desiree Govender at the Alumni Affairs Office during a short stay in Durban. Richard disclosed some important news with regard to changes in student funding arrangements which have implications for the Trust.

The SA Government has ambitious plans to provide full funding for undergraduate students' fees. Already in the current year, such funding is being given for the final year of study for undergraduates. This means that the Trust is not being called upon to provide bursaries for most, if not all, third-year students this year. Instead, its bursaries will go mainly to second-year students.

SA ministers plan to use government spending cuts to fund the extension of financial support for undergraduates. It remains to be seen how this will be achieved for more students in the future.

While the SA Government's commitment to greater student support is welcome, it is clear that the need among students remains very great and will continue to be so. The Trust receives a steady stream of appeals from students in desperate poverty, seeking assistance.

The Trustees will keep the situation under review and will amend the Trust's strategies for support as necessary to ensure that its objects – to support the education of students in need at the University – continue to be met.

POTTERY FROM DAVID WALTERS FOR SALE

Some items of ceramic pottery from alumnus David Walters are to be offered for sale soon, with the proceeds going to the Trust.

Details, including photographs, will be posted on the Trust's website at www.ukznuktrust.org

You can boost the Trust's funds whenever you 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.

At the moment, flowers can only be ordered for delivery in the UK. However, plans are believed to be in hand for overseas delivery: please check the website for the latest information.

News from the Trust – on the web

The Trust has a website with the latest news on its work, as well as help and 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

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.