



# TRUST NEWS

Summer 2017

## Be inspired to donate by examples of giving

People have many and diverse reasons for donating to charity – but it stems from a basic human impulse to help others less fortunate, *writes Trust Chair Roger Smith.*

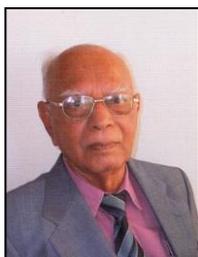
There is something impressive about the fact that Trust supporters include many who are not necessarily very well off themselves. Yet they still make the effort to give.



**Jane Austen**

© National Portrait  
Gallery

It is reminiscent of the case of Jane Austen, who is about to make an appearance on our £10 note. She gave to charity at a time when she was financially insecure and not making much from her novels. An account book she kept in 1807 while in Southampton lists £3 10s 6d for charity in a year when she apparently had about £50 for her private expenses.



**Dr Vasan Govind**

It gives pause for thought about how much you can afford to give to your chosen charities.

Closer to home, the University of KwaZulu-Natal Development Foundation reported in its Development Brief earlier this year on some of the cases where alumni have given something back to the university. Notable among them were surgeon Dr Vasan Govind and retired Regional Court Magistrate Poobalin Pillay. Dr Govind, one of the first graduates of the University of Natal's ->

TRUSTEES: Roger Smith (Chair); Tess Marsh (Secretary); Richard Cooper (Treasurer); Erin Bargate; Penny Holmes; Colin Morgan; Lorna Nimmo.

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# Be inspired to give...

-> Medical School, is sponsoring an annual prize in surgery at the UKZN Medical School. Mr Pillay has donated his entire personal collection of Law Reports to the UKZN School of Law.

In encouraging alumni to give something back, our focus is on helping individual students who qualify under our fundamental criteria of need.

The Trust continues to face huge challenges in its efforts to support needy students at the University. Once again it calls upon alumni and supporters to give as generously as they can, given the sometimes desperate circumstances of so many students living in poverty who nevertheless are trying to advance themselves through education.



Even the smallest contribution can make a crucial difference.

It is unfortunate that competition among charities in the UK has led to some bad practices in more recent years with some charities using pressurised tactics in soliciting donations. This is something the Trust opposes.

We do not bombard supporters and potential donors with emails and leaflets; phone them to put pressure on them to give; or use aggressive street collection tactics.

Instead, we use two newsletters and one or two emails a year to remind people of our work and update them on progress, in the hope that people who recognise its value and importance will be moved to support us. Please give as generously as you can.

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## ***Connect with the Trust on Facebook!***



Please find us on a **new** Facebook page at:  
[www.facebook.com/UKZNUKTrust](http://www.facebook.com/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)

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

# Trust makes fresh appeal as fewer students are helped

The number of students the Trust is able to help is down again this year – from 14 last year to 11 in 2017. The decline has led the Trustees to launch a fresh appeal for donations this Summer.



Once again the main reason for the fall in numbers is that more of the students awarded Trust bursaries in 2017 qualified for a higher level of funding as a result of achieving higher grades.

The Trust sent about the same amount of funding this year as it did in previous years but the money simply did not stretch to cover as many students as before.

Another factor is the exchange rate, which remains much less favourable to the Trust when sending bursary funds to South Africa than in some years past.

The fact that academic success is rewarded provides reassurance to donors that the students concerned are more likely to graduate and go on to have successful careers. But it is regrettable that the Trust can help only a fraction of the students who qualify for help under the criteria of need.



The Trustees call on alumni and supporters in the UK to give as best you can so the Trust can continue its work making a real difference to students' lives and the wider society.

Please make a donation using the form enclosed with this newsletter or by going to the Virgin Money Giving website at [www.virginmoneygiving.com](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com)

Simply search for the University of KwaZulu-Natal UK Trust and follow the simple steps to make your donation, making sure you include a Gift Aid Declaration if you are a UK taxpayer.

# Students pass their exams well

The Trust is pleased to report that the 11 students it is helping in 2017 have passed their first-semester exams with flying colours.

They chalked up very good or excellent results. Four of the students, including Luveen Lutchman, the recipient of the Margaret Thomas Scholarship, were awarded certificates of merit.

Comments from the students will be carried in the next issue of Trust News towards the end of the year.

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## South Africa awaits new moves on student fees

The crisis at SA universities over the campaign to abolish student fees was alleviated this year by measures including education summits and the setting up of an inquiry into the issue.

But the country now awaits the Fees Commission's report with bated breath. Some experts argue that scrapping or reducing fees may be simply unaffordable.

The Trustees believe the Trust's help for students in poverty will continue to be needed for a long time to come.

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## ***Raise money 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 walks to marathon running or sponsored events from birthday appeals to concerts.



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.

### **Keep in touch**

Please make sure the UKZN Alumni Relations Office and the Trust have your up-to-date contact details, including for email.

Remember to email [alumni@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:alumni@ukzn.ac.za) and [info@ukznuktrust.org](mailto:info@ukznuktrust.org) with any changes. Add these two email addresses to your online contact lists so emails are not rejected.