



# TRUST NEWS

Winter 2017-18

## Student's story of hardship underlines need to back Trust



Trust bursary recipient Sinenhlanhla Khumalo struggles with poverty and with studying in English – but with hard work she has been able to pass her exams. In thanking the Trust for its financial help, she has provided an illuminating account of the difficulties she faces.

She writes: "In the absence of both my parents, my grandmother raised me using social grant, the money she got from selling traditional beer, mats and grass used for roofing. My grandfather did informal jobs but unfortunately died in 2007. My grandmother does everything in her power to make sure that we do not starve.

"I went to the local primary school where the level of education was very poor. They taught everything in Zulu, even English ... We did not have computers ... I did not have enough opportunity to practise English and as a result it is difficult for me to study at University."



Sinenhlanhla, who is studying for a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree, pays tribute to her secondary school where, despite a lack of facilities, she became one of the top performing learners.

She says: "I thank them for the person I am today ... It did not have a library or a laboratory for our practicals but the teachers were ->

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

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# Sinenhlanhla's story...

-> very good at their jobs ... They made sure they did all they could with the little that they had."



Sinenhlanhla continues: "Life hasn't been easy for me at the University."

Despite the financial help she has received in the current year, she still has fees outstanding from her first year of study, which could hold her back from obtaining her degree. She says: "That affects me negatively, I won't lie, but I try not to focus on it too much."

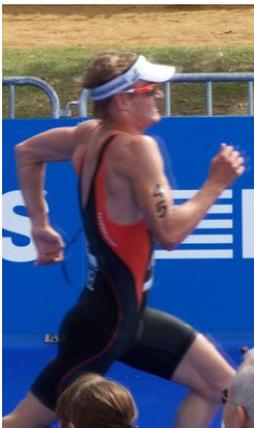
Turning to her studies, Sinenhlanhla says: "I do get unsatisfactory results sometimes but I work hard to make sure that I do not fail in the end." She chose pharmacy as she is seeking "a dynamic, people-oriented career in health care". She notes there were no pharmacies in the rural area where she grew up.

She declares: "I am a hard worker and will try all I can to complete my degree in record time."

Please help Sinenhlanhla and students like her by making a donation to the Trust. Even the smallest contribution can make a difference.

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## Can you raise money for the Trust?



Virgin Money Giving allows you to create your own online sponsorship pages in aid of charities including the Trust.

We urge you to bring in donations through sponsored activities or events. Marathon runs are a popular choice but birthday or other appeals can help.



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.

# Scholarship student tells of vital help from the Trust

The recipient of the Margaret Thomas Scholarship, Luveen Lutchman, has written to express her enormous gratitude to the Trust and its donors.

Luveen, who is studying for a Bachelor of Education degree, says unstable finances forced her family to move a lot when she was younger and she seemed to be always changing schools. "The only constant in life ... was finding solace and peace in reading. I absolutely love reading. I've always had a fascination for how a book is able to move you between two worlds within an instant."



She says she was inspired to become a teacher after being called on in secondary school to run through accounting corrections with her class. "I was expected to teach them how to record certain adjustments. It was then that I fell in love with teaching."

Luveen tells of the financial burden going to university has placed on her family. Without bursary support in her first year, she was supported by her parents "taking many loans (which are still not entirely repaid) and a few family members chipping in to help pay my fees". She adds: "Finance during last year had been scarce and we basically lived on a very tight budget where there was no room for the slightest hiccup."

Her family "had no idea of how to come up with the money to pay for my second year at university". Luveen says she is unable to find the words to describe her joy at learning she was to be given Trust help.

She says her studies this year have been made even more challenging by her mother's poor health. Luveen has had to help out more at home. She says: "I do feel that I need to put in more effort to achieve the results I am aiming for."

That said, Luveen did pass her first semester courses very well, with two certificates of merit.

:: The scholarship was set up in memory of Margaret Thomas, a founder of the Trust, following her death in 2006.

# ***Students voice their thanks***

The Trustees have been pleased to receive messages of thanks from students for the help given by the Trust. Just one more example:



Londeka Zulu, who is studying for a Bachelor of Social Science degree, says she felt “very honoured” to have been awarded a bursary. “The UK Trust has made life easier for me and my family, especially my dad who had to worry about paying ... fees. I am more than happy to let you know how grateful he is. Thank you.”

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## **South Africa still awaits moves on student fees**

The crisis over student funding remains unresolved at the time of going to press, with an announcement still awaited from the SA Government after receiving an inquiry report in August.

The Trustees believe the Trust’s help for needy students will remain necessary for a long time to come.

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



Please find us on 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)

Note the UKZN Alumni Relations team also has a presence on Facebook and LinkedIn.

For the latest news about the Trust, as well as information for donors, go to the charity’s website at: [www.ukznuktrust.org](http://www.ukznuktrust.org)

### ***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 address book or contact list so our emails are not rejected as spam.