



# TRUST NEWS

Summer 2023

## Trust thanks donors as 2023 goal of support for students in need is met

The Trust is providing help for the same number of UKZN students in 2023 as it did in 2022, thanks to a heartwarming response from alumni in the UK to the extraordinary appeal made in the Winter 2022-23 newsletter.



The Trustees had been concerned about whether the Trust would have sufficient funds to support 15 students in need as before, given the extremely challenging prevailing situation. Many charities have been hit by high inflation and the cost-of-living crisis.

However, we are pleased to report that Trust donors and supporters have given generously enough to allow the Trustees to maintain help for the same number of students this year as last year. This will be provided, as before, to: five honours students through the Margaret Thomas Scholarship and four bursaries; and to 10 undergraduates through book and meal allowances.

The Trustees wish to thank to all those whose giving has made this possible. *We call on others to follow their example through donations to help the Trust continue and if possible expand its work.*

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TRUSTEES: Roger Smith (Chair); Erin Bargate (Secretary); Richard Cooper (Treasurer); Sheralee Ghione; Shaunel Gounden; Penny Holmes.

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# Changes to the board of trustees

We are pleased to welcome two new trustees to join in overseeing the Trust and helping further its aim of supporting students in need: **Shaunel Valoshnee Gounden** and **Sheralee Ghione**.

Shaunel was herself a beneficiary of the Trust's help as the recipient of the first Margaret Thomas Bursary in 2007. She graduated from UKZN with a Bachelor of Education degree (cum laude) and a first-class honours degree and went on to teach. After emigrating to the UK in 2015, she moved into professional services and now works as a Digital Adoption Learning Manager. Shaunel featured in the Summer 2021 issue of the Trust's newsletter (available on the Trust's website).

Sheralee is not an alumnus but, like Shaunel, is committed to trying to make a positive difference to the lives of people in South Africa. An FCCA qualified accountant, she works as a Financial Manager. She is known for playing a crucial role in business growth and future initiatives by delivering precise financial analysis and reporting.

The trustees are delighted to have Shaunel and Sheralee on board and believe the Trust will benefit from their commitment, experience and expertise.

Their addition comes as two longstanding trustees, **Tess Marsh** (nee van Diggelen) and **Colin Morgan**, step down after years of faithful service to the Trust. The trustees wish to underline our thanks to Tess, a teacher of English and History of Art, and Colin, a chartered accountant and business consultant, for the valuable contributions they have made to the charity over a long period. We are grateful too for their continuing support for the Trust.

Trustees serve without remuneration or reward. Their work on an unpaid, voluntary basis is vital to ensuring the charity can thrive.

## **Remember to give us any CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Out-of-date contact details mean our communications by email can be blocked and newsletters sent in the post end up being returned, with a waste of the cost of postage.

Please make sure that both **the UKZN Alumni Relations Office** and **the Trust** have your current contact information.

Remember to email any changes to:

[alumni@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:alumni@ukzn.ac.za) and [info@ukznuktrust.org](mailto:info@ukznuktrust.org)

**NB** Add the two email addresses to your online address book or contact list to try to avoid our emails being rejected as spam.

# In memory of Jeanette Hutt

The trustees are grateful to have received a donation to the Trust from Michael Hutt in memory of his late wife, Jeanette, an alumnus who had many happy memories of her four years as a student on the Pietermaritzburg campus in the 1960s.



We are indebted to Michael for a brief account of her remarkable life, character and achievements. He says any alumnus may have known her as *Jeanette Pienaar*. She was of French Huguenot descent.

"After graduating in 1966, she taught at Westville Girls High School in Durban. When her contract expired in 1970, she came to Europe to travel. I had met her in Durban through mutual friends in July of that year, we met up here (in the UK) and eventually married in 1973.

"Jeanette continued to teach in high school. She was highly regarded by all as a gifted and dedicated teacher.

"At Dame Allan's Boys School (in Newcastle upon Tyne) from 1982 until she retired in 2002, she taught, at least in the 12-15 year forms, History, English and Latin.



"She persuaded the governors to set up a Government and Politics department in 1996 for the 6th form, as she majored in this subject at Pietermaritzburg, which was her passion. The department went from small beginnings, but such were the results (all A's) that in her final year there were 18 students wanting to take her classes. Truly an inspiring teacher.

"She then trained as a magistrate and sat on the bench until retirement as Chair in 2014. She continued with intellectual pursuits, playing bridge at a competitive level.

"I was so proud of her bravery, intelligence and strength of character as she battled with Parkinson's Disease, without complaint, from diagnosis in 2005 until she had to go into a nursing home in 2016, where she died in August 2021."

Jeanette leaves her husband, Michael, and their two children, Frances and James.

*\*\* The trustees believe the contribution made to the work of the Trust in assisting students in need will help provide a fitting legacy. \*\**

# Spread of disciplines covered in awards of Trust's help in 2023

The 15 students being assisted by the Trust this year are studying a range of disciplines where help is most needed.

The five honours students comprise: one studying technology education; two public administration; one sociology; and one medicine (human physiology). The 10 undergraduates comprise: one studying civil engineering; one science; one medicine; one physiotherapy; one dietetics; one music; one tourism; one education; and two law.

*\*\* The next issue of the Trust's newsletter, due in December, will include reports on some of the students being supported \*\**

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## Introducing the Trust's new logo



The Trust has its own new logo, befitting its identity as an independent charity, after years of using a version of the UKZN logo with the University's permission. The design uses a graphic of an open book to highlight our focus on education and references the British and South African flags. It was launched at the same time as our revamp of the website at [ukznuktrust.org](http://ukznuktrust.org)

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## Help raise funds for the Trust!

The assistance provided by the Trust depends on the willingness of supporters to try to raise funds for the charity - in addition to their own donations. *You can make a difference through such an effort.*



The Trust uses **CAF Donate** (from the Charities Aid Foundation) for online giving. Donations to the Trust can be boosted by setting up campaign pages on the CAF website at [www.cafonline.org](http://www.cafonline.org), tied to specific fundraising activities and events.



Marathon runs are a popular choice but appeals in relation to a significant birthday or other occasion can also bring in much-needed funds. *Contact **the Trust** if you can help.*

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[www.facebook.com/UKZNUKTrust](http://www.facebook.com/UKZNUKTrust)