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# DEVELOPMENT BRIEF

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL FOUNDATION



UNIVERSITY OF  
KWAZULU-NATAL<sup>TM</sup>  
INYUVESI  
YAKWAZULU-NATALI

**FOUNDATION**

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# FOREWORD

#### Executive Director

Professor Anesh Maniraj Singh



*“Thanks to our donors, the majority of funds raised in 2017 was specified for student bursaries followed by teaching support, research support and other student funding (including disability and food security).”*

Last year, 2017, was extremely challenging for the fundraising team at the Foundation. Therefore, at the outset, I would like to thank my team for going the extra mile to achieve our income target.

This year, we anticipate similar challenges; however, we are counting on the generosity of our donors past and present to support the important work being done by the University to make a difference in South Africa. The initiatives of the Foundation are driven by the University strategy. In light of the newly released strategy 2017-2021, the Foundation is committed to raising funds for, among our regular causes, the four research flagships: Social Cohesion, African Health, Informatics and Big Data, and African cities of the future.

Thanks to our donors, the majority of funds raised in 2017 was specified for student bursaries followed by teaching support, research support and other student funding (including disability and food security). In November 2017, we launched a major campaign to raise funds and awareness for student food security. We will be launching another exciting campaign in May 2018, details of which will follow soon.

# *Saving babies' lives*

The US-based charitable organisation, the Elma Foundation, has recently collaborated with University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) to roll out a multi-year programme to develop paediatrics and child health capacity for the African continent. The outcome of this partnership is the UKZN African Paediatric Fellowship Programme (APFP) which includes both the Universities of Cape Town and Witwatersrand. This project, which commenced in 2017, is funded by way of a grant of R6.6 million over an initial three-year period ending in 2019 with prospects of continuation should the initial project objectives of training 10 fellows be achieved.

The intention of this partnership is to invest in and promote retention of appropriately trained medical professionals on the African continent. Data released by the World Health Organization (2016) estimated that just under 50% of global deaths of children below the age of five occurred in Africa. This pointed to the urgent need to strengthen and initiate programmes aimed at training specialists in the area of paediatric health.

The APFP at UKZN has responded to this pressing need by ensuring that it trains specialists and sub-specialists in the Discipline of Paediatrics through its Fellowship programme. The programme seeks to attract doctors from across the continent and it allows them to undergo their training within the African context. After the completion of the programme, the fellows are expected to return to their home countries and make an impact in addressing their country's specific needs as well as implementing new developments in child health care systems and services throughout Africa.

The APFP Fellowships are implemented locally as a collaboration between the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and Paediatric Sub-specialties at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Hospital, and General Paediatrics at UKZN Teaching Hospitals complex. A distinguishing feature of this programme is that it has a tailored curriculum and allows for practice-based learning to address the child health priorities and capacity-building needs identified by partner hospitals, and provincial and country national health departments. The grant by the Elma Foundation enables the APFP to provide for the tuition fees, travel from home countries,

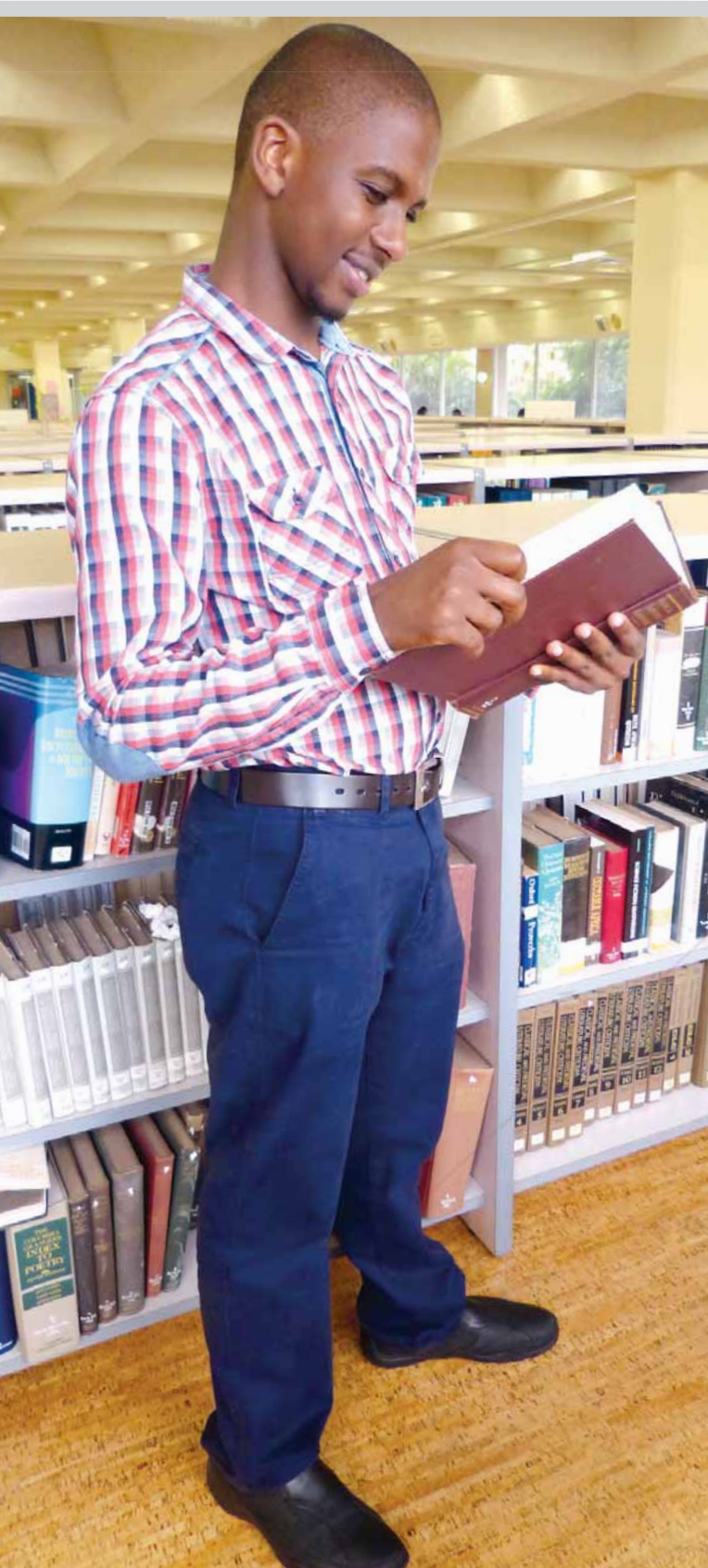
accommodation, and meals for all fellows while they are in South Africa.

Dr Lawrence Mubaiwa, UKZN APFP Programme Director and the Head of Paediatric Neurology, commented that "This programme meets the African continent's urgent need for improved paediatric health care in a sustainable way by providing fit for purpose training within the African context. The knowledge that our Fellows gain over the duration of this programme will enable them to save babies' lives. The generous funding, which we received from the Elma Foundation, has been essential to initiating and running this Programme, the fruits of which will benefit Africa for many years to come."

**- Brendan Boyce**



# Hillensburg Trust: investing in people



The Hillensburg Trust has made a significant difference to the lives of 20 financially needy, academically deserving students in the Faculties of Health Sciences and Humanities at the University of KwaZulu-Natal by offering bursaries worth R1 million for the 2017 academic year and again for 2018. The bursaries covered the full study costs including prescribed textbooks, residence fees and meals.

Ms Fathima Suleiman, who is in her fourth-year of Pharmacy, said the bursary would ensure she has the finances to further her studies. "I am very grateful to the Hillensburg Trust – it means a lot to me."

Suleiman's sentiments were shared by Ms Zanele Ntsethe, who is working towards an MBChB and said, "receiving the bursary was a relief for me personally, but more than anything, I feel privileged and encouraged to push harder than ever – the bursary couldn't have come at a better time."

The Hillensburg Trust Grant was established by the late, notable investor, Leo Karl Dreissen, who was born in Germany in 1909 and came to South Africa in the early 1930s. He was married to Frederika Maria Hoebert and they never had children. The Dreissen family founded United Car and Diesel Distributors, and held the South African franchise for Mercedes Benz and DKW as well as a number of properties in central Pretoria and other parts of the country. Mr Dreissen died in 1975 and Mrs Dreissen passed away in 1993. The couple left most of their estates and funds to the Hillensburg Trust.

"The University of KwaZulu-Natal Foundation is most grateful to the Hillensburg Trust. Their generosity has created a life changing opportunity for each of the recipients," said Professor Anesh Singh, the Executive Director of the UKZN Foundation.

- Steve Camp

# Ford powers wildlife research



Professor Colleen Downs, from the School of Life Sciences, Pietermaritzburg, and her research team received a Ford Ranger bakkie from the Ford Wildlife Foundation (FWF) in December 2017. The aim of this donation in-kind is to support wildlife research on terrestrial vertebrates, changing land use and other related topics. Downs holds the SARChI Research Chair in Ecosystem health and biodiversity in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape.

The Ford Ranger 4x4, one of 11 donated to eight partner organisations in 2017, was handed over at Halfway Ford in Waterfall in December 2017 at an event attended by Downs and a group of her students, as well as FWF representatives. This donation underscores the Ford Motor Company of Southern Africa's (FMCSA) commitment to the conservation and preservation of the environment in sub-Saharan Africa. The FWF was established by the FMCSA in 2014, equipping partner organisations with Ford Rangers to enable their conservation efforts.

"We're really proud to be associated with all of you who go out everyday and actually make a difference in our

world by looking at how we can further conserve and educate," said Ms Linda du Plessis of the FWF as she wished the researchers well in their various projects.

This donation will enable Researchers to conduct a range of investigations into the impacts of changing land use, including urbanisation, on biodiversity, particularly herps, birds and mammals. The locally built, top selling vehicle handed over to Downs and her team is being used to enable projects to go further and make a real impact – particularly in the remote locations often associated with conservation and environmental projects. The vehicle is capable of traversing dirt, gravel, and the kinds of terrain found in South Africa's natural parks and protected areas where this research is taking place.

"The use of the Ford Ranger is a major contributor to our work and our postgraduates being able to successfully undertake the research, as travel, is one of the biggest constraints," said Downs.

- Christine Cuenod

# BURSARIES



## R56MILLION

WORTH OF BURSARIES  
FUNDED TO 1026 STUDENTS

# 2017 AT A GLANCE



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## ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND PROGRAMMES

## R29MILLION

**R2 MILLION** Post Doctoral grants

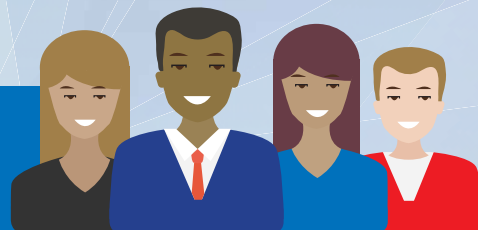
**R1,5 MILLION** Masters grants

**R404 368** Fine Art and History of Arts



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## R29 MILLION



### FUNDED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS

Info4Africa Project received R250 000, UKZN Rugby Bursary received R67 200 and Msinga Food Security Project received R141 863

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## DISABILITY

# R353 000

29 smart canes for blind students

R50 000 towards repair of specialised equipment



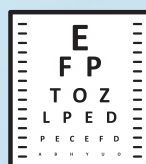
## TEACHING SUPPORT

AFRICAN  
MUSIC PROJECT

R200 000



3 X EYE TEST KITS



1 X OFF ROAD VEHICLE



# Funding the right cause



**T**he 21st of March 2018 marks the 23rd year that a free South Africa celebrates Human Rights Day. In the context of South Africa, this is a significant day as prior to 1994, the majority of South Africans were deprived of the most basic of human rights. The United Nations defines human rights as those inalienable rights accorded to all individuals by virtue of their citizenship or birth.

In South Africa, the Attorney's Fidelity Fund (AFF) is a key statutory body, which provides for enhanced citizens' access to justice through the provision of professional and ethical legal services.

The Director of the Campus Law Clinic at Howard College, Dr David Holness, commented, "As we prepare for the upcoming Human Rights Day celebrations, and as a Law School, we are highly appreciative of the generous contribution of the AFF. During 2017 alone, the AFF made generous donations in excess of R250 000. These funds assisted the clinic to run valuable programmes, support both excellent as well as disadvantaged students and to generally provide quality education for our graduates."

The Director of the Campus Law Clinic at Pietermaritzburg, Ms Chantal Badul, mentioned, "The AFF is a statutory fidelity guarantee fund, which specially exists to serve and protect the South African public. In the event that a member of the public was to suffer loss due to the misappropriation or theft of monies by a member of the profession, then the Attorneys Act provides protection against this loss."

Dr Holness explained, "The relationship which UKZN's School of Law and other law schools across the country have with the AFF is invaluable as the AFF seeks to accelerate growth of the profession by funding future legal practitioners as well as promoting excellence in the legal fraternity and within the legal environment."

Professor Anesh Singh, who manages the donor relationship with the AFF, stated, "We are grateful to the Attorneys Fidelity Fund for the support given to our law students and the Law Clinic."

**- Brendan Boyce**

# UKZN bags leading retailer's contribution to research

Cape Parrot research in South Africa and BirdLife South Africa (BirdLife SA) have received an important boost from retailer Woolworths through the sale of a "Cape Parrot" bag. Some of the proceeds from the sale of the bags are channelled towards research. This initiative is part of Woolworths' Good Business Journey and supports BirdLife SA's Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA) Programme. From the sale of each bag, Woolworths donates R10 to BirdLife SA. Funds raised will be used to protect and secure some of the last remaining habitats of the Cape Parrot. The Parrots depend on mature Afromontane Yellowwood forests for most of their diet and nesting sites; now less than 2% of all South African landscapes comprise of natural forest and only a small proportion of those are Afromontane Yellowwood forests. Less than 1 600 Cape Parrots have been recorded in the wild; they also face the threat of illegal hunting, capture, and increasing disease concerns as their habitat disappears. Habitat fragmentation and loss continue through human over-

utilisation and degradation, further fragmenting the Cape Parrot's already disjointed habitat. Researchers are working on identifying and protecting IBAs for the Parrots, especially three key IBAs in Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape.

Professor Colleen Downs, Chair of the Cape Parrot Working Group (CPWG) and contributor to the annual Cape Parrot Big Birding Day for the past 20 years, thanked BirdLife SA and Woolworths for this support and publicity for the endangered species. Next year will be the 21st annual Cape Parrot Big Birding Day which involves the public in documenting the birds they see. She encouraged the public to support research to protect Cape Parrots through the purchase of the bags which are ideal for Christmas gift-wrapping or for use just as carry bags. Prof Downs also credited designers Athol Moulton and Di Botha for the beautiful designs they produced.

- Christine Cuenod



Thanks for buying this bag. Through the sale of each bag, R10 (VAT inclusive) is donated to BirdLife South Africa. Funds raised will help to safeguard and secure remaining patches of Cape Parrot habitat, and to support the annual Cape Parrot census. To find out more visit [www.birdlife.org.za](http://www.birdlife.org.za)

Volunteer now for the annual Cape Parrot Counting Day, an annual census and research event held to gather information on the current population of Cape Parrots in South Africa. For more information, contact Prof. Colleen T. Downs on [downs@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:downs@ukzn.ac.za), or find out more via the QR code on this bag, or at [www.bags4good.org.za/cape-parrots](http://www.bags4good.org.za/cape-parrots)

  
BirdLife  
SOUTH AFRICA  
Giving Conservation Wings

W

# TATA: making a difference



Recently, UKZN and TATA Africa came together to celebrate the awarding of eleven postgraduate scholarships to University of KwaZulu-Natal students at a ceremony held at Westville campus' Senate Chamber.

The event acknowledged the generous donation of R770 000 for postgraduate scholarships which TATA Africa gave to top performing postgraduate students from disadvantaged communities to assist in completing their studies across a broad spectrum of Disciplines from Social Sciences, Agriculture, Management and Earth Sciences. "The funding from TATA Africa has made all the difference in my life." These are the words of Ms Nqobile Ngwane whose Honors in Supply Chain Management was fully funded by TATA Africa. Nqobile's grandmother who was in attendance at the ceremony said, "As a family we are so grateful for the scholarship. During 2007, Nqobile lost both her parents. It is such a great accomplishment that she has finished her studies."

In his official welcome address, UKZN Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Albert van Jaarsveld thanked TATA for their consistent and generous support. He also highlighted the difficulties, which many postgraduate students faced in pursuing postgraduate study, noting that the support from TATA reduced the strain of students having to worry about funding their studies.

Van Jaarsveld commented, "We appreciate the consistent contribution of TATA in this area of postgraduate funding as there is a growing focus on National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) funding undergraduates. In recent times, the funding support traditionally sourced from the National Research Foundation has been redirected to NSFAS."

TATA's Executive Director and Head: Distribution Vertical, Mr Len Brand said the two-thirds of the company's turnover sits in a trust and that goes towards community upliftment. He said the bursary programme enables TATA to touch the communities.

Brand encouraged the students to go back and uplift their communities. He said, "Our motto is to invest in the best to enable the best to uplift the rest."

Scholarship recipient, Ms Zanele Ndimande thanks TATA for the opportunity they provided for her to continue with her studies. "I am grateful as this has made a difference in my life."

Other recipients were: Lizzy Majoji, Mvelo Mkhwanazi, Thuleleni Mkhize, Nqobile Ngwane, Siphesihle Ndlovu, Noxolo Zungu, Sizakele Mbatha, Sindisiwe Cele, Zwelihle Dlamini and Samukele Murafe.

- Sithembile Shabangu and Brendan Boyce

# Breeding Africa's next generation of crop scientists



**T**he University of KwaZulu-Natal's (UKZN) African Centre for Crop Improvement (ACCI) recently celebrated the amazing achievement of the Centre having graduated over 100 plant breeders at PhD level over the past 15 years. This occasion was marked by the launch of a book titled, *African Centre for Crop Improvement, The New Breed: Training the Next Generation of African Plant Breeders, in Africa*.

The Rockefeller Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), through the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), have funded the ACCI since 2002. ACCI have contributed to the development of over 140 new high yielding crop varieties, which exhibit resilience to biotic and abiotic stresses.

'The New Breed', edited by ACCI Professors Mark Laing and Hussein Shimelis, together with Ms. Shelagh McLoughlin, focuses on the concept of the ACCI and how its objectives were achieved. The Centre has focused on supervising PhD students while they conduct research in their home countries, with a period of training in South Africa.

The ACCI transformed us into what we are: true African plant breeders,' said Dr. Albert Changaya, an ACCI graduate, now a senior scientist in Malawi.

According to Dr. Joe DeVries, Vice President of AGRA and one of the ACCI's founders, "This has been a sea-change in terms of the way people look at agriculture in Africa, in the belief that African scientists can make something much more out of its farming community and agricultural sector." DeVries credited UKZN academics and staff who have made ACCI a success. "It has been a tremendous journey, there is a genuine difference between today and 15 years ago in the African agricultural sector." said DeVries.

In emphasising the importance of researchers actively engaging with small-scale farmers and developing their own soft skills, Prof. Laing noted that, "A project of this scale and this international nature in plant breeding had not been tried anywhere before."

ACCI has made a name for UKZN at institutions and universities across Africa. In the preamble to the publication, UKZN's Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr. Albert van Jaarsveld, describes the ACCI as one of UKZN's "leading success stories".

ACCI thanked AGRA, the BMGF and the Rockefeller Foundation for their support over the past 15 years.

- Christine Cuenod



JCA 2463



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