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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



*“The last few months have been extremely busy yet fulfilling for us at the Foundation. We launched our first public fundraising campaign, which was uncharted territory for our team.”*

The R67 for Mandela Month campaign was launched on 21 May to raise funds for bursaries for students in the missing middle. The campaign was built on the 67 years former President Nelson Mandela fought for social justice and his popular quotation, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”. The amount of R67 was considered a reasonably affordable sum that most working class people could afford in order to make a difference in the lives of UKZN students.

Initially, the campaign did not gain much traction. Support was mainly coming from staff, students and alumni. However, our strategic partners, Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry and East Coast Radio used their communication and social media platforms to spread the message to their members and listeners respectively. There was a buzz of excitement on Mandela’s birthday, 18 July, at East Coast Radio. Our Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Albert van Jaarsveld, five of our top performing 2017 bursary recipients and an alumnus were interviewed on East Coast Radio, highlighting the need for funds for bursaries. Ms. Palesa Phili, CEO of Durban Chamber also went on air to pledge the Chamber’s support for this campaign. Listeners on the East Coast responded very generously, raising R89 000 on the day. Two businesses, PricewaterhouseCoopers and Sumitomo Rubber, made substantial pledges in support of the campaign. I wish to extend our sincere gratitude to all those who supported the R67 campaign.

# Foundation Launches New US Initiative

The Foundation's Executive Director, Prof. Anesh Maniraj Singh, flew to the east coast of the US, and visited Washington, DC, where he made contact with a number of charitable foundations.

Prof. Singh then went to New York where he had organised an alumni gathering at the South African Consulate General in New York on May 10th. The event was a huge success, a great launch for the new outreach in the US on behalf of the UKZN Foundation. About 30 people from several generations and various campuses intermingled, enjoyed reunions and made new connections.

"We detected a genuine interest among the alumni there that night in getting involved in any events that we organise in the future. We felt there was an important consensus that they wanted to get together again", said Cheetah Haysom (BA, 1969), one of the two newly appointed US "ambassadors" for the Foundation.

The other US "ambassador" for the Foundation, Mandy Dhillon (née Sewpersadh, B.Sc. Property Development, 2008), spoke to the crowd about her own struggle to pay her fees and urged attendees to help support students at UKZN in whatever way they can.

Prof. Singh's video presentations on the University as it is today, and on the Foundation's objectives, were very informative and effective and an important step toward getting alumni in the wider New York region (including New Jersey and Connecticut) connected to the modern University of KwaZulu-Natal.

The success of the New York Alma Mater gathering suggests that other regions in the US might have productive alumni gatherings as well. Efforts have begun to organise alumni events in other parts of the US, including California. UKZN alumnus, Bernard Wolfsdorf, who runs one of the top immigration law firms in the US, has already volunteered to get an alumni gathering together in Los Angeles.

The goal of the two new ambassadors, Mandy and Cheetah, is to make contact with UKZN alumni across the United States in order to help keep the community connected and informed, and, where possible, further the interests of the University through academic, intellectual, social and financial means.

- **Cheetah Haysom**



Prof. Anesh Singh with US-based alumni in New York



# UKZN Foundation Pays Tribute to Dr. Albert van Jaarsveld



UKZN Vice-Chancellor and Principal  
- Dr. Albert van Jaarsveld

“UKZN Foundation has made great strides in achieving its objectives during Dr. Albert van Jaarsveld's tenure as Vice-Chancellor of the University”, says UKZN Foundation's Chairman, Mr. Mac Mia, who described van Jaarsveld as unique in his interactive and collective effort to bring role players together for a common cause. “A key aspect is the direct support he has given to the Executive Director, in particular, ensuring that the University Executive work together with the Director, rather than at parallels, to achieve the common objective of attracting much required resources to UKZN,” said Mia.

According to Prof. Anesh Singh, the Vice-Chancellor provided him and his team with the support required to drive the initiatives of the Foundation, “Dr. van Jaarsveld lent his face and his voice to our campaigns and he was always the first to make a contribution to the various donation requests sent to him”.

Mia said the Foundation's substantial fundraising results, in the poor economic climate over the last few years, bears testimony to donors viewing UKZN as an institution with strong leadership. “Dr. van Jaarsveld's direct interaction provides a degree of confidence and comfort to donors or potential donors who require assurance at the highest level that governance is not compromised. Without fund raising, universities in South Africa would be hard pressed to deliver on their mandate. As such, specific arms, like the UKZN Foundation, play a huge role in augmenting the University of KwaZulu-Natal's resources, with specific focus, in recent times, on assisting deserving students”, said Mia.

He stated that over time, such efforts would gain momentum, thereby increasing the trend to assist more students. “Individual and corporate donors want South Africa to be prosperous, and where better to start than at a tertiary level. The dedicated effort of the Foundation's fundraisers is bearing fruit, which in turn reflects on the positive impact on assisted students”, he said. Mia wished van Jaarsveld well in his new position as Director General and CEO of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Austria as from 1 October.

“When opportunities avail themselves and are not taken, rarely do they surface again. The new position Dr. van Jaarsveld has accepted provides a great opportunity to broaden his horizon globally. Of course, his loss is huge to the University, given his tenacity to tackle all issues head-on without fear or favor.

“On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation, we wish Dr. van Jaarsveld great success in his new role, knowing full well that at every opportunity, he would promote UKZN as the South African university of choice. More importantly, we are greatly appreciative of his contribution and support to the Board, given the many challenges encountered at the university”, said Mia.

- **Taschica Pillay**

# UKZN Staff Member Seizes the Opportunity to Contribute



Mr. Mandla Mdhuli, staff member at UKZN

UKZN Foundation champion, Mandlenkosi Mdhuli, encouraged South Africans to make a contribution to the Foundation on Mandela Day to help fund deserving students. Mdhuli appealed to East Coast Radio listeners to contribute to the worthy cause and support Nelson Mandela's legacy by equipping future leaders.

UKZN Foundation teamed up with East Coast Radio on Mandela Day, July 18, which also marked the centenary of the birth of the world struggle icon, and appealed to people locally and abroad to support the Foundation by donating a minimum of R67 towards student bursaries. Apart from making an appeal on-air and driving the campaign on social media, Mdhuli set up a fundraising page through BackaBuddy, a crowdfunding initiative, where he invited people within his network to contribute to the cause. He was able to raise R3 000 through the BackaBuddy donation platform.

Mdhuli, who is currently a Financial Manager in the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science, graduated with a Bachelor of Accountancy in 2004 and honours a year later. "I have been at the University for more than a decade and learnt about the Foundation's fundraising initiatives and saw an opportunity to contribute. Having come from a disadvantaged background myself, this appealed to me." Mdhuli describes the R67 campaign as a wonderful initiative that encourages people to contribute to a worthy cause, in keeping with Mandela's sentiments of using education as a weapon to change the world, and most importantly, to give access to the underprivileged.

Mdhuli says he obtained a loan in his first year of study from the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) and became a bursary recipient in his second year. "The bursary changed my life as I was able to complete my degree and honours, affording me a better future. Financial resources were limited or non-existent from my family. It was my elder brother who had seen to my well-being", says Mdhuli.

- Taschica Pillay



# KZN Rises to the Challenge on Mandela Day

The people of KwaZulu-Natal dug deep into their wallets in support of UKZN Foundation's R67 for Mandela Month Campaign. The Foundation – the fundraising arm of the University – raised a whopping R366 840 – which included R102 000 from East Coast Radio listeners, R97 867 from a manufacturing company and R60 000 from an auditing firm, whilst staff, students and alumni gave a sum of R88 537 to help deserving students.

On Mandela Day, 18 July, UKZN Foundation partnered with East Coast Radio to celebrate the centenary of the birth of the great icon by reflecting on his life and the legacy he left for the rainbow nation. In honour of Mandela, the people of KwaZulu-Natal were called upon to contribute a minimum of R67 towards the University's Bursary Fund. There were also lucky draw prizes that included movie tickets to Ster Kinekor, dinner vouchers at Chez Nous – Westville Junction, a pair of his and hers designer sunglasses and two eye care packages – courtesy of Execuspecs Gateway, SPAR grocery vouchers, a weekend for two to Cape Town – courtesy of Serendipity Travel.

UKZN Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Albert van Jaarsveld, told listeners the reality is that 60% of UKZN students are financially needy. "There is a need to find mechanisms to bridge the gap to ensure there are no hungry students on campus, to make sure we can assist them pay off loans or assist them to get bursaries for their studies." He said it was very necessary to support senior students in the system who are not benefitting from the new government grant.

"It is important for the University management that none of our students go hungry on campus. We started a campaign to raise money from alumni and other supporters to ensure that every student goes to bed with a meal. That was

where the initiative started and it has grown from there," said Dr. Van Jaarsveld.

ECR general manager, Boni Mchunu, expressed her excitement at being a part of the initiative. "Mandela Day means hope and significance. Mandela touched SA and the rest of the world. How can we as South Africans touch the world and make a meaningful and significant difference in the city that we live in? I am very passionate about education. I believe in what Mandela said, that education is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world", she said. Mchunu contributed R6 700 towards the bursary and called on all media executives to do the same.

Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chief Executive, Palesa Phili, said education will not only honour Mandela's memory and raise money, it will also empower the next generation with the tools to effect change. "The partnership between the Chamber and UKZN Foundation epitomises our commitment to the ideals and values Nelson Mandela lived by", she said. Phili appealed to businesses and colleagues in eThekweni to contribute R67 towards the education fund that benefits disadvantaged students. The Chamber garnered support from members and urged businesses, and the people of eThekweni and beyond to pledge a minimum of R67 to the worthy cause. "We as business leaders are responsible for being part of the process and systems that involve future generations", said Phili.

One of the top bursary recipients for 2017, Ntobeko Cele, thanked everyone for donating and encouraged others to contribute, adding that there are a number of deserving students looking for funding to achieve their goals. Cele, a computer science student, said he would have been



# DONATIONS

**Aug 06, 2018 - R1 439.48**

*"We believe in building the future of our country through education" - Escongweni BPH Engineers*

**Jul 19, 2018 - R77.00**

*"Doing my bit for Mandela Day. He is a Legend" - Lynda Calasse*

**Jul 18, 2018 - USD \$39.64**

*"Tertiary education is a gift to a brighter future" - Vishen Govindasamy*

**Jul 18, 2018 - USD \$15.85**

*"Thank you for giving us the opportunity to contribute towards this worthy cause" - Kevin*

**Jul 18, 2018 - R510.00**

*"I'm a product of UKZN and I know the struggle of finance. I'm so excited to give back. #education #ecr" - Dhineshree Pillay*

at home had he not received the bursary. "It is financially tough at home. I am very grateful for this. It goes a long way in helping me fulfil my dreams. The R67 for Mandela Month Campaign is very important, as there are many students who are in my situation. They need funding. The more education we receive, the better living conditions we create for ourselves as a country", said Cele.

The Foundation's Executive Director, Prof. Anesh Singh, appealed to everyone to make a difference in the lives

#UKZN67 was trending 3<sup>rd</sup> on Twitter in South Africa at midday 18<sup>th</sup> July



## 565 Total Donors

151 new donors from May to end July  
414 donors from ECR broadcast



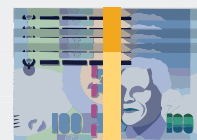
# R366 840

was raised by the Foundation

**R102 000** ECR

**R13 022** BackaBuddy

**R88 537** Foundation Website



## 10 Partial Bursaries

awarded to missing middle students



of students who have absolutely nothing else. "Give them a higher education. The money will go towards the bursary fund. We have a list of deserving students", said Singh. Another top performing bursary recipient of 2017, Pearl Perumal, who is completing an honours in medical biochemistry, said it was a financial blessing. "It reduced the financial burden in my household. It granted me the opportunity to not only graduate, but also helped me pursue my honours this year", said Perumal.

- **Taschica Pillay**





# Leading Tyre Manufacturer Donates to UKZN Bursary Fund

A South African tyre manufacturing company donated close to R100 000 towards UKZN's R67 for Mandela Month Campaign. Sumitomo Rubber South Africa (Pty) Ltd. (SRSA), manufacturer of the popular Dunlop, Falken and Sumitomo Tyre brands, donated R97 867 (R67 on behalf of each of its 1 461 employees).

The tyre brand came out in support of the R67 for Mandela Month Campaign, spearheaded by UKZN to assist in bursary funding for deserving students at the institution. On 18 July, Mandela Day, UKZN and East Coast Radio joined forces in their call for a minimum donation of R67, representing Nelson Mandela's 67-year struggle for social justice.

SRSA Chief Executive Officer, Riaz Haffejee, said that as a KwaZulu-Natal based company, they felt compelled to make a contribution to the worthy cause. "Education is a key pillar in our corporate social investment strategy. We believe that education is the greatest weapon of change and a tool to eradicate poverty. In the words of the late Nelson Mandela, *The power of education extends beyond the development of skills we need for economic success. It can contribute to nation-building and reconciliation*", said Haffejee.

Haffejee said recipients of the campaign could go on to pursue fulfilling careers that would help to shape the future of industry in the province and South Africa. SRSA's other education-focused initiatives include a tutorship programme that provides stationery packs and tutoring in Mathematics and Physics to learners at Steadville High School and Bhakintuthuko High School in Ladysmith, where the company's manufacturing plant is located.

The tyre giant recently held its inaugural Sumitomo Rubber South Africa Career Day at the two schools, where about 2 000 learners benefitted from career and study information and presentations. Through the Tyres Can Do More initiative, the company has also installed outdoor play gyms at eight Ladysmith pre-schools to develop young children's co-ordination and gross motor skills, as well as encourage outdoor play.

- Taschica Pillay



L-R: Riaz Haffejee (CEO), Takesuke Ikeuchi (Corporate Planning Director), Avril Williamson (Human Resources Director) and Yvette Govender (Marketing & Business Development Director).



# Doble Donates Diagnostic Equipment

The donation of protection test units to UKZN's School of Engineering is set to enhance the University and upskill more industry-savvy students. Doble Engineering – which offers diagnostic instruments, services, and apparatus test results for energy generation and delivery companies, and industrial power users worldwide – donated two protection test sets, valued at over R3 million, to the University. At the hand-over event held at the Smart Grid Research Centre, Prof. Anesh Maniraj Singh, Executive Director of UKZN Foundation, said the donation to the School of Engineering, especially electrical, was the culmination of a year of negotiation and it marked the start of a commercial engagement with Doble.

Mr. Luwendran Moodley, Managing Director of Doble Engineering Company, said use of the protection test sets would greatly enhance teaching and research at the University. "It would go a long way in ones CV to say that they used a protection test set to relay and analyse the scheme." Moodley said they hope to donate more test sets, especially in the high voltage sector.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science, Prof. Albert Modi, said when they receive donations, they take it as a serious partnership and ask themselves how much can they give back in the next 5-10 years. He stated that he was pleased when Moodley said the core reason they were giving the University the equipment was to train people who are going to be relevant to the industry. "One of the things we are talking about at the University is what our curriculum is doing for the industry", said Modi.

Engineer and Senior Lecturer, Dr. Andrew Swanson said, "It is nice to have the partnership with Doble, one step to bringing industry into the University and bringing us closer to what we need to produce."

"We need to provide more industry-savvy students", said Prof. David Dorrell, Director of the centre, who stated that the donation is timely as they are trying to build a proper university centre which has equipment being used in the field today. "We are hoping to do more experimental work and projects and hopefully in two to three years time, have a post-graduate diploma in power and energy systems."

- Taschica Pillay



L-R: Mr. Kamentheran Govender, Mr. Luwendran Moodley, Prof. Albert Modi, Prof. David Dorrell and Prof. Anesh Singh

# SANBI Visits the uMngeni Resilience Project



Members of the SANBI Board with UKZN researchers and representatives at the research site in Swayimane

Picture by: Christine Cuénod

Members of the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) visited UKZN research sites in Swayimane, near Wartburg in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands, where sustainable agro-ecosystems are being created.

Among the sites visited was Swayimane High School, which has an Agrometeorological Instrumentation Mast (AIM) and lightning warning system. Other areas visited included the crop trials and tunnels that facilitate climate-smart agriculture research.

The sites form part of the uMngeni Resilience Project (URP), an initiative supported by the Global Adaptation Fund and administered by SANBI, in partnership with the Department of Environmental Affairs.

URP researchers are creating platforms to reflect on how South Africans, specifically different spheres of government, are preparing and responding to climate change induced disasters. They have hosted several workshops to build capacity in local government, and have brought together partners and contributors from across South Africa and the globe to take research to where it is most needed.

Dr. Joseph Matjila, SANBI Board Chairman, said work at local government is where a real difference is made.

"Climate change is a big issue in our lives, and this project has value as an enabler for the municipal planning system. We want to empower our local authorities in dealing with the realities of climate change," said Matjila.

UKZN project leader Professor Albert Modi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science gave a presentation emphasising UKZN's objectives in reducing the vulnerability of people so that they are resilient to climate change, with the ultimate goal of creating sustainable agro-ecosystems.

The Mayor of uMgungundlovu District Municipality, Thobekile Maphumulo, said the added pressure of climate change and extreme meteorological events on an already strained economy would affect the most vulnerable.

"Life under a changing climate is going to be tough if we do not act now to capacitate our community or respond proactively," said Maphumulo.

- Christine Cuénod



# Durban Chamber of Commerce Collaborates with UKZN Foundation

The Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry aligned itself with UKZN's R67 for Mandela Month Campaign as it epitomises the chambers commitment to the ideals and values that Nelson Mandela lived by. The Chamber's Chief Executive, Palesa Phili, said the partnership made sense as it helped UKZN access the Durban Chamber's network.

"The campaign not only honours Mandela's memory and raises money for one of the causes close to his heart, but will empower the next generation with the tools to effect social and economic change. Youth business development is a key focus area for the Chamber", said Phili.

Phili said business has a dual role to play. "Funding for bursaries is critical so that students can have access to higher education. This will benefit the economy as a whole, because through targeted funding of specific degrees and vocations, the talent pool will be replenished and new skills developed. "Business needs to actively play a role in educating students about the opportunities available to them, entrepreneurial ventures and in the corporate sector", said Phili. She stated that the costs associated with fee-free higher education and training is uncertain at this point, adding that business is looking forward to getting more clarity from government.

"Most of our member businesses are already investing in on-the-job training, providing internship opportunities looking at ways in which they can cooperate more with educational institutions in order to assist in driving our economy in a positive trajectory." To quote the late Nelson Mandela, "The power of education extends beyond the development of skills we need for economic success. It can contribute to nation-building and reconciliation."

"Education plays a key role in shaping and driving our economy and society, and in order to ensure our continued development and future success, we need to empower the future leaders and drivers of our economy with the right tools and knowledge in order to be that driving force for change and upliftment", said Phili.

- **Taschica Pillay**



Durban Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive  
- Palesa Phili

# THANK YOU



The University of KwaZulu-Natal Foundation extends its heartfelt appreciation to our partners and donors for supporting student bursaries in honor of the late Nelson Mandela. Your generosity has made it possible to make a difference in the lives of 10 students.

*"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" - Nelson Mandela*

For more information or to make a donation, visit:  
[www.foundation.ukzn.ac.za](http://www.foundation.ukzn.ac.za)

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