

DEVELOPMENT BRIEF

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL FOUNDATION



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FOUNDATION

CONTENTS

FOREWORD _____ 1

INFO4AFRICA SALUTES
ALL ITS DONORS _____ 2

TATA AFRICA "DRIVES" SABELO
CELE'S ACADEMIC JOURNEY _____ 3

UKZN'S "MISSING MIDDLE"
AWARDED BURSARIES _____ 4

ABSA UNEARTHS A GEM _____ 5

TWENTY STUDENTS BENEFIT
FROM HILLENSBERG TRUST _____ 6

ARABIC STUDIES CIRCLE TRUST
SPONSORS MATHS WIZKID _____ 7

UKZN ENGAGES ALUMNI ON
THE NORTH COAST _____ 8

LASEC SUPPORTS HIGHER
EDUCATION THROUGH
DONATION OF CHEMICALS _____ 9

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
GOING HUNGRY _____ 10

Editor:

Brendan P Boyce

Contributors:

Brendan P Boyce,
Bukiwe Biyela,
Finn Christensen,
Sabelo Cele,
Sibusiso Dlamini, and
Taschica Pillay.

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UKZN Foundation

FOREWORD

Executive Director

Professor Anesh Maniraj Singh



"The R67 for Mandela Month campaign, which was our first public fundraising campaign, won the Foundation a bronze certificate at the annual Marketing, Advancement and Communication in Education (MACE) awards."

This year has been one of mixed emotions and heightened challenges for the fundraising team. Two of our experienced fundraisers left the Foundation to pursue careers overseas. The remaining three fundraisers had to navigate the challenging economic waters to focus our activities and forge ahead. The economy has impacted the achievement of our financial target, however, we have faith in our donors as they see a turnaround in business.

Two major achievements this year has been the forging of partnerships with Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry and East Coast Radio. With their reach and appeal, the Foundation is set to grow its public campaigns.

The R67 for Mandela Month campaign, which was our first public fundraising campaign, won the Foundation a bronze certificate at the annual Marketing, Advancement and Communication in Education (MACE) awards. I wish to thank the generous donors, individuals and businesses, who came together to make a difference in the lives of ten students. Your generosity has resulted in this award.

As we embrace the holidays, we have launched our annual food security campaign, "Share the Festive Cheer". This is the second year that we are running this campaign, to support students who go hungry to class due to lack of funding. Research has proven that poor nourishment leads to poor results. I appeal to you to support this initiative during this festive period and beyond.

I wish to thank our Board of Trustees for their support and guidance this year and my staff and colleagues at the Foundation for their support and commitment to "Enabling Greatness".

To you our donors and supporters, I wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday filled with joy, love and happiness.

Info4africa salutes all its donors

Info4africa, a self-funded Centre of Excellence at the University of KwaZulu-Natal's School of Applied Human Sciences bids farewell to its Director, Debbie Heustice, who was instrumental in establishing the centre and steering it since its inception 18 years ago. The centre runs three core programmes, namely the national service finder database, SA Voices HIV Museum and multi-sectoral seminars.

Heustice and her team grew the health finder database from a provincial resource in 2001 to a national, multi-access service finder platform. The national database was made possible with funds from National Treasury and the Foundation for Professional Development (FPD). Together with FPD, info4africa produced eight national paper-based and electronic directory series which have been distributed annually to public sector and NGO stakeholders across South Africa.

The UKZN Foundation team helped info4africa leverage funding from a number of funders, exposed them to new opportunities and helped them hone the way in which they communicated their work.

The centre, which was for the first decade known as the Centre for HIV/AIDS Networking (HIVAN), was formed to bridge the gap between biomedical and social-behavioral research. It was founded in 2001 by the then Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development) Professor Eleanor Preston-Whyte and Professor Hoosen (Jerry) Coovadia on their retirement from UKZN. HIVAN, which was initially funded by the Carnegie Corporation and Atlantic Philanthropies, positioned itself as an enabling hub to support networking, capacity building

and engagement on HIV-related research and practice. HIVAN worked alongside the University Student Services Division to develop the University AIDS Policy and University Peer Education Programme. In a bid to meet student demands, HIVAN built the Campus HIV/AIDS Support Units (CHASU) on each campus, which was funded by the Atlantic Philanthropies and Carnegie Corporation. More than a decade later, CHASU continues to play an important role in health and well-being outreach support to students.

Last year (2017), UKZN AIDS Programme partnered with info4africa to create a UKZN Edition of info4africa's popular South African Voices HIV Museum, funded by the Ford Foundation. The museum blends audio-visual content, artefacts, audio books and text panels, offering students a novel way of learning about HIV, TB and health services offered to UKZN students and staff.

In the past two years, the museum has educated over 20 000 youth on HIV and TB through its museum content and innovative SA Voices Youth Backpack project. Info4africa has built strong and enduring partnerships with the SA Medical Research Council (SAMRC), Religions for Peace South Africa (WCRP/RfP SA), the KZN Inter-Religious Council, KZN Social Welfare Forum Network, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, to name a few. Info4africa offers one to two free capacity building forums, workshops or seminars each month. These forums offer a space to network on health and well-being policy, research and practice.

- Taschica Pillay



Tata Africa “drives” Sabelo Cele’s academic journey

Mr Brendan Boyce, recently caught up with Mr Sabelo Cele shortly after he was awarded a postgraduate scholarship by Tata Africa. Cele said, “I grew up in a small township called Ezakheni in Ladysmith. I am one of seven siblings raised by my mom and grandmother on just a government grant and the money made from catering events in the neighborhood. I was an average learner in high school due to a lack of focus. Everything changed in 2011, my elder sister

commenced her studies at University of Pretoria. Her example inspired me. I knew I had to follow in her footsteps. I wanted to study closer to home and I settled on the University of KwaZulu-Natal offer. I am grateful that the UKZN offered me an Extended Curriculum Course.”

Sabelo experienced many challenges at university, “In my 1st year at UKZN, I struggled managing time despite taking a gap year prior to arriving at university, I wasn’t prepared for the pressure that came with independence. I was fortunate to get NSFAS for my undergraduate studies and to be placed in a residence.” As part of his curriculum, Sabelo took Sociology and Political Sciences as majors. A year later, a student advisor suggested he take Drama and Performance studies due to his marks and commitment to those disciplines. Student counselling provided him with invaluable advice on how to take his studies forward at UKZN.

Sabelo’s greatest struggle was to consistently get good marks that would eventually convince the administrators to grant him a NSFAS bursary. “I received a Certificate of Merit for Drama while Political Science marks kept going back and forth instead of getting better. In Drama I took activities, productions and festivals for exposure.” Sabelo hardly took part in university student politics. But now as a drama graduate “I can create work that provokes the political discourse of the country.”

Reflecting on the TATA bursary, Sabelo stated, “The TATA bursary came at a time when I needed a break-through. This award confirms that hard work pays off. Only when you invest in yourself; then the universe will invest in you too. I am positive about the future whether in private, public or academia, I will forever be impacted by TATA’s generosity. I appreciate my family and lecturers for being supportive. I appreciate the work of the UKZN Foundation in attracting such funds.”

- Brendan Patrick Boyce and Sabelo Cele



UKZN's “missing middle” awarded bursaries

On Mandela Day, 18 July, the foundation partnered with East Coast Radio to celebrate the centenary of the birth of the struggle icon and reflect on the 67 years he fought for social justice. An appeal was made to the people of KwaZulu-Natal to contribute a minimum of R67. The foundation raised R366 840.

At a function hosted by the foundation on 4 September 2018, guests included the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Albert van Jaarsveld, East Coast Radio General Manager, Boni Mchunu; the Chief Executive of the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Palesa Phili; Surina Ramchander of PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC); bursary recipients; and their families. Recipients of the bursaries were Thabani Ngwane, Shalini Naidoo, Hafsah Aswani, Kryalin Kannie, Cheven Somlal, Sipiwe Dlamini, Asanda Khuzwayo, Thabile Dladla, Ashmin Unruth and Stembiso Ntuli.

Prof Anesh Singh, Executive Director of the Foundation, thanked all the donors who heeded the call to support the foundation in their R67 for Mandela Month campaign. Their generosity “made a difference in that 10 partial bursaries were offered to missing middle students”.

Ashmin Unruth, a UKZN BComm Accounting student, was among 10 students to be awarded partial bursaries from the UKZN Foundation as part of the Mandela Month Bursary Awards. Unruth, of Ladysmith in KwaZulu-Natal, said the bursary has had a great impact on her life. “It has been a great challenge for my parents to pay for my university expenses. The fact that I am studying away from home, there are additional expenses that have to be taken into consideration.” According to Ashmin, “Regardless of all the challenges a first year student has to endure, I persevered and allowed my prime focus to fall onto my studies”.

Unruth’s advice to other students: “No matter how hard things might get, consider the bigger picture in life and remember why you are doing what you’re doing. Remember that there will be benefits to your hard work. So keep on going and never stop until you’re completely satisfied with your achievements.”

She was thankful to PWC, adding that they “have been a great partner in my academic journey because of this bursary. I am truly grateful for the opportunity that they have bestowed upon me”. Ashmin’s father, Ravi Unruth, said, “It is truly incredible to watch her grow into the person she is and to watch her throughout her life journey.

This bursary has had a great impact on us financially and we are grateful for it.”

Bursary recipient, Thabani Ngwane, said that he’s a lover because he’s a firm believer that through love one can make a lasting change in this world. “This is an occasion of love because the university, out of love, decided to help us, the underprivileged. It’s no fault of ours that we were born into families who do not have the necessary financial means. For the kind of love that you have shown me and my fellow recipients, thank you. Thank you for the kindness you have shown us. This kindness makes a difference in my life and other people’s lives in the future,” said Ngwane.

Third-year Bachelor of Social Science student, Miss Thabile Dladla, said that she was surprised when she found out she would be receiving a bursary. “It helps a lot. It will help take away some of the stress on my mother, who is a single parent. “My plan is to do my honours next year and I didn’t know how I was going to pay my fees,” said Dladla. Dladla said she plans on making a contribution in the future to the R67 for Mandela Campaign.

- Taschica Pillay



ABSA unearths a gem

ABSA bank has once again been a major donor to UKZN in 2018, directing funds to the much-needed area of student bursaries for high performing students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Among this year's beneficiaries is Mr Sibusiso Dlamini who is pursuing a Bachelor of Education degree at UKZN's Edgewood campus. Dlamini is a young and fresh-faced youth who hails from the northern most region of Jozini in the province of KwaZulu-Natal.

Dlamini's story is one of a real diamond in the rough. Being born to a large family of 11 siblings, all of whom relied on their grandmother, the sole provider, was a tough experience. "I am the first member of my family who has had the privilege of pursuing a higher education. The two main influencers on my life are my grandmother and my mother who was a domestic worker."

Reflecting on his journey thus far Sibusiso commented, "I saw studying at UKZN as a way to uplift myself and escape from poverty. I was really inspired by UKZN's good reputation, together with the long tradition of academic excellence. It was really important to me that I was accepted at a good university such as UKZN which is ranked amongst the top 5 universities of the country. The long and short of it is that I wanted to be amongst the best. I always dreamt of being the best at everything I do."

When he arrived at UKZN, his immediate challenge was getting used to the environment. "I was new, especially being from a rural area with no one to turn to in difficult times. Also, the issue of technology that is recently used to do almost everything, I did not know how to do a lot of things using computers. I had to ask some people who know how things are done. I was not familiar with the whole system of learning in the university. I give thanks to my computer literacy tutor who did not only help in the module but also made my stay at UKZN successful."

Sibusiso said, "My most difficult issue was lack of funds or financial assistance towards my studies. I was troubled by the fact that I had to use a loan for my studies which gave me hard times. This went on up until ABSA granted me a scholarship. ABSA assisted me to overcome this problem. Now that I have the ABSA Scholarship, I see nothing that can stop me from achieving my goals. I will stop at nothing to strive for the best as I am covered in terms of funds. All my dreams will be successful as I do not have to worry about money any longer. I would like to thank the university, ABSA and my family for being with me in my hour of

need. Mostly my gratitude goes to the ABSA Scholarship for their help, together with UKZN for recognising my need. To others out there, I would like to tell them that; let funds not be the obstacle for not achieving their goals. There are a lot of bursaries out there that are waiting for them. All they need to do is; work hard and be the best. Do not let your background stop you from achieving your goals. Continue to strive for the best."

ABSA recently held an intimate handover function at its offices located north of Durban in the Umhlanga business park. In attendance was the UKZN Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Albert van Jaarsveld who noted, "One of my greatest challenges when I joined UKZN was to find funding for student fees and student housing. It is the generosity of donors like ABSA who have supported UKZN in addressing the student fees challenge." Van Jaarsveld thanked and encouraged ABSA to continue supporting the various needs of UKZN.

- Brendan Patrick Boyce and Sibusiso Dlamini



Twenty students benefit from Hillensberg Trust

The Hillensberg Trust helped 20 deserving UKZN students in the Faculties of Health Sciences and Humanities pursue their studies when they awarded bursaries worth R1-million in the 2017 and 2018 academic year. The bursaries covered the full study costs that included prescribed textbooks, residence fees and meals. Nompumelelo Ndlovu, a recipient of the Hillensberg Trust, said that it was a challenge going to university.

"My father, who was unemployed, passed away when I was in matric. When I came to university, no one was working at home, but luckily I was funded by NSFAS until last year when I received the bursary. It has helped me a lot. I am very grateful. "When I found out about the bursary, I called home. My mother was so proud. I am forever grateful for the opportunity. With NSFAS, you are grateful but you are constantly reminded that you have to pay back. So to be given such an opportunity is an honour. This has motivated me. I hope that I will also be able to help students coming from backgrounds similar to mine," said Ndlovu, a final year Bachelor of Nursing student.

She said that her mother had to borrow money to pay the R500 acceptance fee. Ndlovu, of Gamalakhe Township, in Port Shepstone, on the KwaZulu-Natal south coast, advised other students to put aside the situation at home and remember that only you can change that situation.

"There were days when I had nothing to eat but I had to think of where I come from in order to push myself to where I am going. Study hard, it will open doors you never thought of, an example of that is me", she said.

The Hillensberg Trust Grant was established by the late, notable investor, Mr 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 had the South African franchise for Mercedes Benz and D.K.W as well as a number of properties in central Pretoria and other parts of the country. Mr Dreissen died in 1975 while Mrs Dreissen passed away in 1993. Both left most of their estates and funds to the Hillensberg Trust.

Another recipient of the Hillensberg grant, Zamahlobo Ntombela, expressed her gratitude to the Hillensberg Trust and UKZN Foundation for selecting her to receive the bursary, which allowed her to complete her masters in music. "Growing up in a less privileged community and family has not only offered financial and academic

challenges but also helped me realise the value of education. I am thankful for receiving your generous gift. Your support will go a long way in achieving my educational and career goals", said Ntombela.

Noxolo Ngidi, who is completing her masters in arts, said that she was deeply honoured to be one of the recipients of the Hillensberg Trust bursaries. She said the financial assistance that Hillensberg Trust provided has been of great assistance in covering her educational costs and allowing her to study further without any financial burden. "My research in tactility in visual art started at Honours level. I was interested in making ceramic artworks that will cater for both blind and short-sighted people. I realised one year of studying this topic was not enough, so I registered for a Masters with the hope of delving deeper into this topic. I registered with no funding, solely relying on my single parent to pay for my living expenses and fees. "I was thrilled when I found out I was selected as one of the Hillensberg recipients", said Ngidi.

- Taschica Pillay



Arabic Studies Circle Trust sponsors maths wizkid

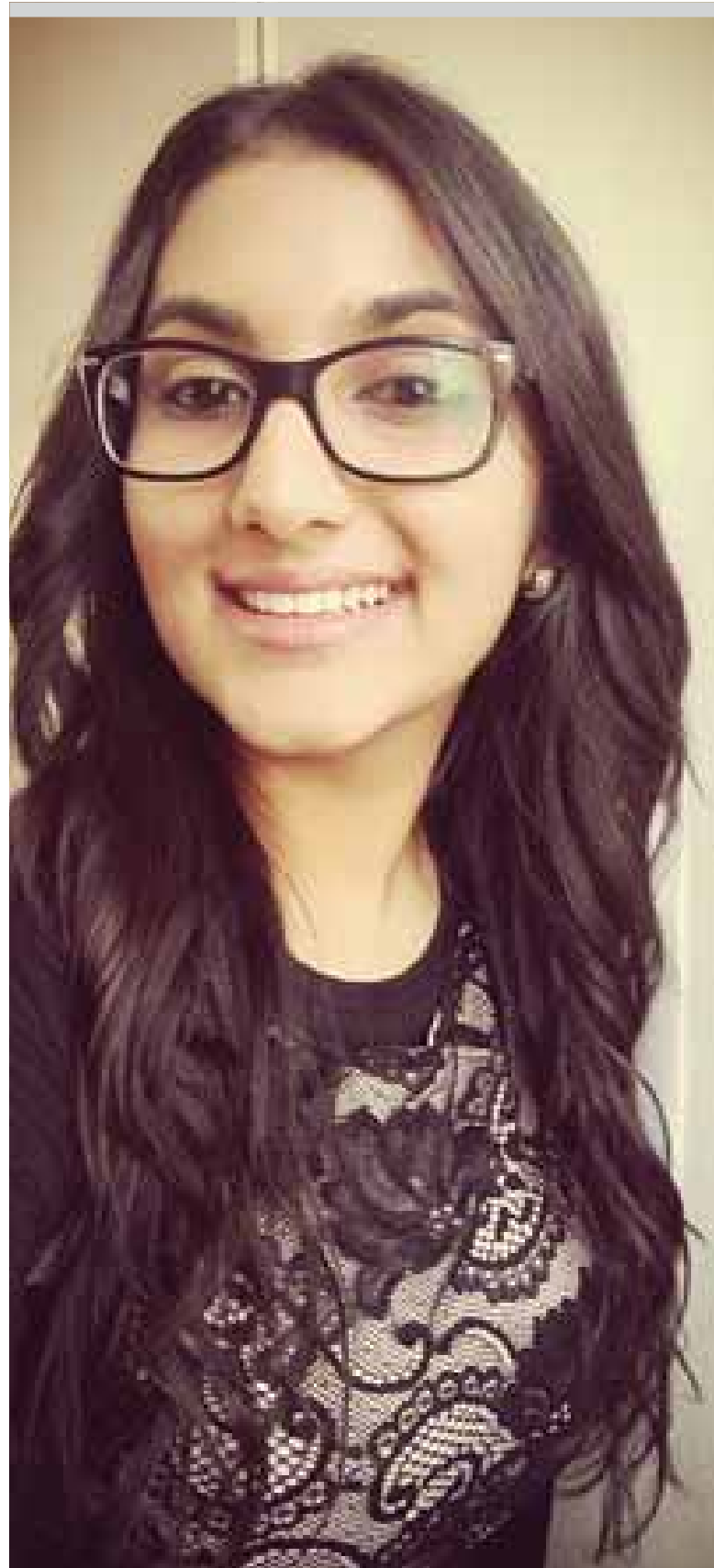
A bursary from the Arabic Studies Circle Trust was a huge relief for Safiyya Khan, who is currently in her final year of her degree, studying towards a BSc in Applied Mathematics and Statistics. Khan described her journey as a student as tough, from looking for sponsors for her university fees, to adjusting to university life and the university work load.

“But all that set aside, it has been most fulfilling thus far. Arabic Circle has been a huge relief by granting me a bursary for two years. Applying for bursaries is nerve wrecking and the wait to see if you have been granted the bursary is equally bad, but that sense of relief you get after having received the bursary is something amazing and Arabic Circle has done just that for me.” She said that she was grateful and humbled to be an Arabic Circle bursary recipient. “It is a great blessing to receive such an award and they have granted that twice to me. I thank God every day for their generosity and hope they continue to give other students the opportunity to study what they desire without having to suffer any financial strain in order to achieve their dreams and aspirations.”

Khan said that university was difficult, but advised students that hard work is rewarded. “If you work to your best ability, applying for bursaries will become less difficult, as your results will speak for itself and organisations would look forward to funding you. I have tried my level best to produce good results and have therefore been awarded this bursary. It was not through all my efforts alone, but with the prayers of my loved ones and the teachings of my lecturers who got me this far”, said Khan.

Khan, who plans to do her honours in Statistics next year, would like to work at a firm as a Data Analyst or Data Scientist. “I would also like to give back to society, by sponsoring students as well as giving back to bursary agencies that have assisted me in the past, so that they may continue their most generous work in helping other students, as I know what a great burden it is for students to find sponsors”, she said.

- Taschica Pillay



UKZN engages alumni on the north coast

The UKZN Alumni relations unit recently hosted a lunch for alumni located on the northern seaboard at the industrial town of Richards Bay. This occasion, which took place at the BON Hotel Waterfront, was intended to encourage graduates to reconnect with their alma mater in an informal setting. It also provided a platform for networking as well as an opportunity for guests to get an update of recent developments at the Institution.

The function which was attended by approximately 50 alumni was presided over by the acting Executive Director of Corporate Relations Division Ms Normah Zondo.

The main speaker on the day was Prof Anesh Singh, the Executive Director of the UKZN Foundation. Prof Singh provided the guests with a high-level overview of the activities of the University and the role of the UKZN Foundation which included the exciting new projects that the Foundation hoped to take forward with the support of its Alumni and other strategic partners.

He also outlined the various opportunities available for alumni to re-engage with the University through further study. Prof Singh encouraged all the guests to consider making a small initial donation to one of the worthy causes supported by the Foundation.

- Finn Christensen



Lasec supports higher education through donation of chemicals

Students from UKZN's School of Chemistry and Physics are set to benefit from a R450 000 chemical donation from Lasec SA, a supplier of internationally recognised brands of scientific and laboratory equipment. This donation was facilitated by the UKZN Foundation's Donor Relations Manager, Mr Steve Camp, who is responsible for supporting the fundraising efforts of the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science.

"This donation comes as a business decision of Lasec to reduce their stock holdings to a core range", said Camp. "UKZN is always grateful to receive surplus chemical stocks which help to not only reduce volumes of chemicals that are disposed of as waste, but importantly a significant cost saving benefit for the university and our students, as well as being environmentally beneficial", Camp concluded.

Technical Manager for the School, Mr Hashim Desai explained that a large portion of the School's budget – in the region of R2.6 million – was dedicated to laboratory consumables and chemicals. He said that any donation

of chemicals would benefit undergraduate students and would be used in the research laboratories.

Dean and Head of the School of Chemistry and Physics, Professor Ross Robinson, said that the School intended to distribute the 4 279kg (9 pellets) worth of chemicals after the official November opening of the new Chemistry Postgraduate Research Facility located on UKZN's Pietermaritzburg Campus.

"The School of Chemistry and Physics is grateful for the very kind donation of chemicals to the School, which will be used to support our undergraduate teaching programme as well as some of our Honours research projects", said Robinson. "The chemicals provided will also allow the School to look into expanding the number of experiment options that we can offer to our students, as well as try out new options for possible inclusion in our portfolio of experiments, which form part of our curriculum."

- Taschica Pillay



University students going hungry

Official statistics all point to the fact that food insecurity is one of the biggest problems faced by students at tertiary institutions worldwide. It is estimated that about a billion people around the world live everyday with hunger or food insecurity as their constant companion and a significantly high percentage of those people are students.

Student hunger has become a national crisis in South Africa. Recent statistics estimate that 26% of the country's broader population is food insecure. The student population is amongst the most vulnerable as they are a dependant population. It is estimated that close to 60% of the students at tertiary institutions in South Africa are food insecure, the majority of these students being Black students.

In 2013, the University of Free State found that 79% of Black students were impacted by food insecurity; and in a study conducted at the University of KwaZulu- Natal, it was found that 1 in 5 students were moderately food insecure and 1 in 3 students were severely food insecure.

Food insecurity is a significant public health concern on campuses across the country and can interfere with a student's ability to "learn, thrive and complete their education". This has been viewed as one of the challenges that could hinder a student's academic progression as it is proven that food insecurity negatively affects academic performance.

The UKZN Foundation relies on businesses, trusts and foundations to support our initiatives. However, these donors also have other initiatives which they need to support. This is the reason why we are seeking the support of individuals to help us raise at least R100 000 for this Campaign which commenced on the 1st of November 2018 and concludes on the last day of 2018. In order to make it affordable we have selected R50 as a minimum donation towards this worthy cause.

The Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Nan Phoku has appealed to all staff, university partners, corporates and the general public to get behind this important cause. Prof Phoku has challenged stakeholders with his message, "Join me this festive season in raising funds to ensure that our students are food secure in 2019."

During this festive season "Share the Festive Cheer" by clicking on <https://foundation.ukzn.ac.za/donation-form/> and support a less fortunate student.

- Bukiwe Biyela



SHARE THE FESTIVE CHEER

DONATE NOW

Scan this code
and make a difference



Support the UKZN - Student Food Security Programme

- > More than sixty percent of UKZN students require financial support to access higher education.
- > There are at least 2 000 students who do not receive funding for food/meals.
- > Research has found that poor nutrition is a major factor in poor academic performance.
- > The UKZN Student Food Security Programme requires generous support from students, staff, alumni, businesses and members of the public.

"Join me this festive season in raising funds to ensure that our students are food secure in 2019."

- Professor Nana Poku, UKZN Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal

Your generous donation of at least **R50** will make a major difference in the lives of our students. Scan the QR code to make a mobile donation or go to www.foundation.ukzn.ac.za



FOUNDATION

University of KwaZulu-Natal Foundation,
232 Mazisi Kunene Avenue, Durban, South Africa

Telephone: +27 (0) 31 260 2389

E-mail: foundation@ukzn.ac.za

www.foundation.ukzn.ac.za