



TRUST NEWS

Summer 2024

Trust donors' generosity sees big rise in number of students helped in 2024

The Trust is providing assistance to 21 UKZN students in need this year, up from 15 last year, thanks to a funding boost from the charity's supporters. It is around 20 years since the Trust last was able to help as many students in one year.

The backing will go to seven honours students through Trust bursaries and the Margaret Thomas Scholarship and to 14 undergraduates through book and meal allowances.

The increase has been made possible through significant giving by late alumni Gwyneth Price and Ralph Bennett as well as other donors committed to supporting the Trust's work. ...>



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

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Big rise in number of students helped

...> Reports on artist and sculptor Gwyn, who passed away last year, and science PhD Ralph, who passed away in 2014, were carried in the previous issue of Trust News and on the website at www.ukznuktrust.org



The trustees hope such examples of wonderful generosity will serve as an inspiration to alumni in the UK to support the Trust's work by giving as best you can. The need remains very great, with many students struggling with poverty, debt and hunger.

It is worth reminding readers:

- Regular giving by **standing order** helps the Trust by providing a reliable stream of income. If you can, please fill out and return the relevant part of the form enclosed with this newsletter
- If you are a UK taxpayer, please fill out the **Gift Aid Declaration** on the form, allowing the Trust to claim an additional 25p from the taxman for every £1 you donate
- Donors may wish to consider making a **legacy or bequest** to the Trust in their will, in the knowledge that they will be helping make future provision for students. Do *contact us* if you have any queries.

*** Stories on some of the 21 students being assisted by the Trust this year will appear in the next issue of Trust News, due in December. ***

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Out-of-date contact details mean our communications by email can be blocked and newsletters sent in the post end up being returned, with a waste of the cost of postage.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

Gwyn's boost for Fine Arts student

The trustees are pleased to have been able to include a young woman studying for a BA in Visual Art among the 21 students awarded help from the Trust this year. It serves as a tribute to artist and sculptor Gwyneth Price (nee Westwood).



The student's selection followed a meeting Gwyn had with Trust Chair Roger Smith in August last year to discuss a donation to the charity. Given Gwyn's own experience as a Fine Arts student on the Pietermaritzburg campus in the 1960s, she agreed it would be welcome if such a student could be among those to benefit from her contribution today. Gwyn was already seriously ill with cancer at that time and sadly passed away in November.

The trustees believe the funding she gave to help students in need at UKZN will provide a fitting legacy. We feel it is particularly appropriate that a Visual Art BA student is among those selected for 2024, in line with the wish expressed by Gwyn.

Roger attended a memorial gathering for Gwyn in February in Llantwit Major, South Wales, where she had lived with her husband Graham in retirement. There was a good turnout for the event and it was pleasing to see some of Gwyn's artworks on display.



They included a wooden sculpture of a reclining figure, on loan from alumnus Carola Gordon (nee Brotherton). It was a work Gwyn had carved as a student. Carola acquired it in 1966 when she was on the staff of the Fine Arts department

at around the same time that Gwyn was studying there.

Carola is well-known as an artist producing drawings and paintings of Edinburgh aspects, allotments and interior views. She and her husband Martin are longstanding supporters of the Trust.

*** We plan to provide comments from the Visual Art BA student mentioned above in the next issue of Trust News. ***

Trust seeks volunteer to join board

Could **you** contribute to the Trust by becoming a **trustee** to help oversee its work? The trustees are looking for a suitable candidate to join them after a vacancy arose. Unfortunately, personal circumstances have compelled Shaunel Gouden to step down, although she remains committed to backing the charity.

The role is not particularly onerous as it normally involves just three meetings a year and consultations by email. Trustees serve without remuneration or reward. **Contact the Trust** to find out more.

Save the date: Val Binney book launch 22nd November

Alumnus and longstanding Trust supporter Val Binney has extended a general invitation to fellow alumni to join her at the launch of her new novel, *Downhill Without Brakes*, in London on Friday, 22nd November.

Val studied English and Psychology on the 'Maritzburg campus 1970-73 before coming to the UK. After retiring as a clinical psychologist, she did an MA in creative writing at Sheffield Hallam University.

Downhill Without Brakes is set in the newly democratic South Africa of the 1990s. It is a poignant novel tracing how one fateful incident changes the lives of two men forever, against the backdrop of a society undergoing rapid social change.

The book launch is set for 5.30-7pm in the functions room, St Georges Tavern, 14 Belgrave Rd, London SW1V 1QD (near Victoria Station).

Help raise funds for the Trust!

The work of the Trust depends on the willingness of supporters to try to raise funds for the charity - in addition to making 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, tied to specific fundraising activities and events such as marathons and special birthdays.



Contact the Trust if you can help.