



TRUST NEWS

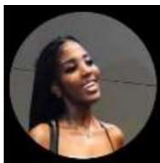
Winter 2024-25

Trust students impress with commitment to succeed

The Trustees are pleased to report that communications with the UKZN students being helped by the Trust this year have revealed a strong determination to achieve in their studies and go on to make a positive contribution to society.



The Trust is providing assistance to 21 students in need in 2024, up from 15 in 2023, thanks to the generosity of our donors. This issue of Trust News focuses on some of the students' comments received.



Nothando Brightness Majozi voices her passion for IT that led her to pursue a B Com in Information Systems and Technology. She declares: "In my ideal world, technology easily resolves difficulties in the real world."

Nothando has taken on the role of the UKZN Tech Society's operations manager. "In addition, I work as the Campus Executive for SWEEP, a non-profit [organisation] that empowers women in higher education."

She is an organiser of Women in Games events in Durban. She says her team won third place in the 2023 Women Game Jam Africa ...>

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

POSTAL ADDRESS: Church House, Yr Allt, Llantrisant, Pontyclun, CF72 8EF.

Web: www.ukznuktrust.org Tel: 07968 142671 E-mail: info@ukznuktrust.org

Students show commitment to succeed

...> with the digital game they developed.

Nothando says: "I was also chosen to be a part of the worldwide AIDEV initiative, where I aim to use technology to address urgent global issues listed in the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations."



Among her achievements, Nothando has acted as team leader for a tech project and built an e-commerce website.



Buhlebemvelo Anele Mchunu says she chose to pursue a B Sc (Honours) degree in Environmental Science "because of my passion for understanding the natural world and addressing environmental challenges".

She says she has developed a strong interest in GIS (Geographic Information System mapping) and spatial analysis, "which has enabled me to effectively map and analyse environmental phenomena". Her current Honours project covers landslide mapping in Durban. After graduating, she hopes to work on land planning, conservation and environmental management projects.

Mirriam Moloi, who was awarded the Trust's *Margaret Thomas Scholarship* for 2024, says she is pursuing a Bachelor of Education (Honours) degree "because I have a passion for teaching and desire to make a positive impact on the future generation".



She says: "I am grateful for the opportunity to further my studies in this field because I believe I have strong communication skills, patience, creativity, and empathy ... I find joy in fostering learners' growth and building meaningful relationships within the classroom."



Also studying for a B Ed (Hons) degree is **Andile Sipehelele Zhikali**, who is focusing on Social Science "because I'm passionate about teaching, learning, and research". He says: "I enjoy analyzing data, identifying patterns and drawing meaningful conclusions."

Andile hopes his studies will equip him to make "a positive impact on the lives of my students and the wider community".

...>

Sihlobile Anele Zamaswazi Mkhwanazi says that pursuing a B Com in Accounting "is a dream come true, combining my childhood passions for business, economics and problem-solving". She tells of her fascination with "the impact of economic trends on businesses and society" and her determination "to analyze financial data and develop solutions to real-world problems".



Sihlobile says of her chosen field: "With its promise of job security and financial stability, a career in accounting offers a beacon of hope for my family's prosperity ... I'm driven to make my mother proud by completing my degree in record time and securing a successful career to repay her investment." She adds: "I'm passionate about shattering glass ceilings and inspiring women to enter male-dominated fields, proving that, with determination, anyone can succeed."



Zibusiso Zola Mandlakazi Mathe is studying for a BA in Music. She says music has been a long-term passion and she wanted to become more skilled in the theoretical and technical fundamentals. She believes that "becoming an educationally-equipped musician makes you stand out in the music industry, especially as a woman".

However, Zibusiso hopes to be able to work not only as a musician but also as a music therapist. By combining Music and Psychology, she wants to "guide others through traumatic and painful life experiences".

Nobuhle Larisa Tshuma, a Bachelor of Medical Science student engaged in an Honours course in Human Physiology, says she is particularly attracted to the areas of neuroscience, cardiovascular physiology, and exercise physiology. "I enjoy the challenge of understanding the ... relationships between different physiological systems and the impact of various factors on human health and function."



*** Please give as generously as you can to support our students ***

Can you help raise funds for the Trust?

The work of the Trust depends on the willingness of supporters to try to raise funds – in addition to their own donations.

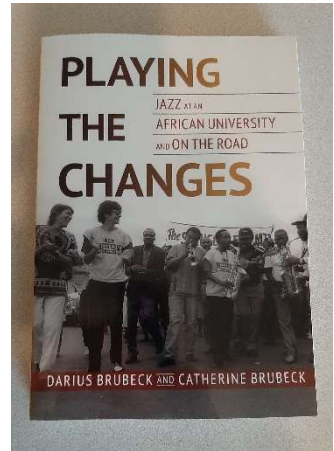


The Trust uses **CAF Donate** for online giving. Donations to the Trust can be boosted by setting up campaign pages on the CAF website at www.cafonline.org, tied to specific fundraising activities and events such as marathons and special birthdays. **Contact the Trust** if you can help.



***Playing the Changes*: Brubecks' book tells special tale of jazz and much more**

Longstanding Trust supporters Catherine and Darius Brubeck spent 23 years at the University during an extraordinary period for jazz and the struggle against apartheid. Now their book about their experiences between 1983 and 2006, *Playing the Changes*, is available in the UK. It will be of interest to many alumni, especially anyone fortunate enough to have experienced those Brubeck-inspired gigs where black and white musicians explored the wonderful strand of South African jazz together, during a time of political and social tumult.



The Brubecks tell their story with wit, charm and humour, despite the sometimes horrendous circumstances they had to endure. Against the odds, they built a renowned academic centre for jazz music at the University and managed and organized bands, concerts and tours in SA and abroad. The book provides illuminating portraits of many of the characterful musicians and others with whom they worked.

Among the many challenges faced, one that will resonate with Trust donors was trying to find support for needy students on the Jazz Programme. In an article from 1988 in the *American Jazz Education Journal*, Darius wrote: "Students mostly have no money. Let me be very explicit: I don't mean 'not enough money', I mean NO money." The Brubecks made extraordinary efforts, including having students stay with them until other accommodation could be found.

Playing the Changes: Jazz at an African University and on the Road can be ordered from good bookshops such as Blackwells and Waterstones, ISBN 978-0-252-08826-1. For more information, including on a related documentary film, see: dariusbrubeck.com

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