

# UKZN honours TB Davis

TNA REPORTER  
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THE University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) will today host a symposium to honour the legacy of Thomas Benjamin Davis who funded the construction of the institution's Howard College building in 1931 at the university's Ukulinga Research farm in Pietermaritzburg.

The symposium is intended to underline the role of agriculture for food production and security in Africa.

Experts with interests ranging from climate change impacts, crop production, animal science, food security, community engagement, environmental sciences and agricultural engineering, will participate at the event.

"UKZN's Ukulinga Research Farm has a rich history and an ongoing reputation of innovative theoretical and applied research, technology development and

technology transfer in the field of agricultural and its related disciplines," the university said.

Prof Richard Eckard, director of Australia's Primary Industries Climate Challenges Centre, will be the keynote speaker. – 701198

» 'The symposium will be a synergistic platform for information sharing and collaboration nationally, internationally and across agricultural disciplines,' UKZN said.

» It is a joint venture between the UKZN Foundation and the TB Davis Trust, which operates a farm on the island of Jersey.

» 'The founder of this trust, Thomas Benjamin Frederick Davis, was a well-known figure in Southern Africa in the early

1900s, having made his fortune in the stevedoring business and eventually controlled the business of loading and unloading ships at docks from Port Elizabeth to Dar es Salaam.'

» Davis supported the former University of Natal when it was founded, contributing £140 000 (now R3.2m) to the construction of the Howard College building in Durban which was opened in 1931. The building was named after his son, Howard, who died aged 21 in World War I's Battle of the Somme.

» 'The educational legacy of Davis will continue through the hosting of the symposium, which aims to showcase research done at Ukulinga to the scientific community, agribusiness sector and farming community.'