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The UKZN Scholarships Committee, as a structure of Senate, oversees the allocation of one of the categories of student funding, namely, the University scholarships and merit awards to academically outstanding students. This Committee has the responsibility to facilitate the fair and equitable selection, recognition and distribution of these prestigious awards across all four Colleges according to the Senate approved criteria and conditions that are in line with the vision, mission and strategic goals of the University.

Consequently, the Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony is an event that recognises our top performing undergraduate and postgraduate students who have met the requisite criteria for the respective scholarships. UKZN views the Awards Ceremony as a culmination of resilience, determination and hard work by our students, their families as well as our dedicated staff. Given the changing landscape in basic and higher education; together with the concomitant challenges, the achievements of the scholarships awardees is nothing short of outstanding.

Education is the basis of a country’s economic prosperity. To quote former President Nelson Mandela: ‘Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.’ As a university, we have witnessed first-hand the impact education has on eradicating poverty. South Africa and our continent- with the largest proportion being youth- must seek to use education to creatively harness the opportunities offered by the Knowledge Economy, the 4th Industrial Revolution and Entrepreneurship. Therefore, our country has great expectations that you will rise to these challenges and equally contribute to improving the lives of all within our society.

This year (2018) the University has, as an investment in academic excellence, made available R40 million to fund scholarships for academically sound students at the Institution.

Our scholarships are named after South African luminaries and benefactors who have made a significant contribution to society. As one of the leading research-led institutions on the continent and Top 500 globally, UKZN will continue to encourage, support and recognise excellence among our students at all levels of their development.

Hambani niyokwenza umehluko emphakathini (go forth and make a difference to South Africa).

PROFESSOR BALA PILLAY
Chair: Scholarships Committee
The availability of finance remains one of the main prerequisites to accessing Higher Education, which for many remains the only opportunity to change their personal and family’s circumstances or thrust academic “high fliers” into a future with a successful career.

It is in this light that UKZN offers a suite of scholarships- ranging from undergraduate to postgraduate- in a bid to assist students take up academic studies that would have otherwise remained an unattainable dream.

To put this in monetary terms, in 2018, UKZN made available R40 million to fund scholarships for academically sound students at the Institution.

‘As the University of KwaZulu-Natal, we award scholarships in order to reward excellence, recruit the best students to the University and boost our research outputs,’ said Ms Denise Govender, UKZN Scholarships Head. ‘The scholarships have also served to retain academically sound students to the University. Scholarships assist in covering the cost of study and remove the financial burden from students’ families. *Summa cum* and *cum laude* fee remission scholarships have been a drawcard for the University. Fee remissions have given many students a chance to undertake Master’s and PhD studies that they would not have even dreamed of ever doing’, said Govender.

With there being an increase in the demand for Higher Education in the country- which is seen by many youngsters from underprivileged backgrounds as the only escape from a life of poverty- Higher Education Institutions have been urged to create a level playing field for students who come from less affluent backgrounds.

‘The aim of the UKZN Scholarships Office is to provide excellent customer service and assist as many students as possible with funding in so far as our resources allow us to. Over the years, the scholarships offering at UKZN has evolved to respond better to the needs of students. For example, with the fee remission offering, students can now afford to do Master’s and PhD studies. The Talent Equity Scholarship is also giving students employment opportunities,’ said Govender who urged students- when applying for scholarships- to read the application guidelines and submit applications within the prescribed deadline.
This year (2018), the University of KwaZulu-Natal awarded approximately 130 students prestigious scholarships at the University’s Annual Scholarships Awards Ceremony on the Westville campus. The awards celebrate outstanding academic excellence and achievement in sport.

In 2018, UKZN awarded 5,644 scholarships worth a staggering R160,803,775 to 4,649 students.

### Scholarships by Race

- **African**: 3,165
- **Indian**: 1,035
- **White**: 1,035
- **Coloured**: 308
- **Female**: 2,440
- **Male**: 2,209
- **Disabled**: 40

### Scholarships by Colleges

- **College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science**: 1,476
- **College of Health Sciences**: 1,104
- **College of Law and Management Studies**: 720
- **College of Humanities**: 1349

**Overall, the University awarded scholarships to 2,440 female recipients, 2,209 male recipients, and 40 disabled recipients, totalling R1,145,817.**

**Author:** Raylene Captain-Hastibeer
1. PRESTIGE SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP FOR SIBLING SAILORS

2. FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO EMMA SMITH OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

3. UKZN DOCTORAL RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP REWARDS PHD CANDIDATE’S SACRIFICE

4. COLLEGE DVC SCHOLARSHIP FOR BRIGHT ENGINEERING STUDENT
PRESTIGE SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP FOR SIBLING SAILORS

For Rudi, who is in his third-year BSc Biological Sciences studies, this is his second Prestige Sports Scholarship Award for the second-year running while his sister, who is doing her first-year studies towards her Bachelor of Medical Sciences degree (Physiology) is receiving it for the first time.

The Prestige Sports Scholarship is awarded annually for outstanding achievement in sports at international, national or provincial levels.

The passionate sailors are both ecstatic about their scholarships. ‘To share this scholarship with my brother means a lot to me as we are both very passionate about sailing. I am very proud of my brother for his achievement second time round and I am also inspired to reach such lengths,’ said Hannah.

Rudi’s love for sailing started from a young age and has led him to a thriving sailing career which saw him compete in a number of national competitions such as the highly prestigious Lipton Challenge Cup Regatta in which he participated alongside his sister earlier this year.

‘I’ve studied in Durban my entire life, and it only felt natural to continue my education here at such a great institute while training in my home waters, learning from familiar experienced sailors. I will be working with our dedicated UKZN Yacht Club to take part in this year’s Lipton Challenge
Cup regatta, a highly prestigious 109-year-old regatta where six months of training and preparation will see us competing against Olympians and World champions,’ he said.

Hannah said her scholarship will allow her to continually improve her sporting accolades by travelling to national events, train with world class sailors and compete on an international level if so desired. ‘Not only does the scholarship benefit my sporting activities, it also allows me to focus on my academics, maintaining my interest in acquiring new knowledge,’ she said.

Rudi expressed his gratitude and excitement to the scholarship donors for awarding him this opportunity and hopes the same will also happen to other aspiring athletes. ‘This scholarship allows me to focus on my studies, improve and expand my sailing career, as well as growing the UKZN Yacht Club and introducing new sailors to the sport, creating the most diverse team on the water. I plan to take every opportunity to compete in international, national and regional events. I want to continue to learn and grow at racing as I do with my studies,’ he said.

Author: Zolile Duma
Caption: Mr Rudi Fokkens and his sister, Ms Hannah Fokkens who received the UKZN Prestige Sports Scholarship Award for Sailing
Photograph: Supplied
The Emma Smith Overseas Scholarship, funded by the family of C.G Smith and named after Mrs C.G Smith, provides top-performing female postgraduate students resident in eThekwini an opportunity to study abroad. Earlier this year, Hlongwane obtained her Forensics Genetics BSc Honours degree *cum laude*.

Her Master’s research is on antimicrobial resistance in livestock and focuses on examining the prevalence of staphylococcus aureus in livestock in KZN as well as the screening for the virulent and resistant strains of the bacterium. Passionate about Biology, she has always shown an eager interest in life sciences since her early days as a Durban Girls High School pupil. Her interest later blossomed into a love for Biology during undergraduate days at UKZN. ‘It was under my Life Sciences teacher’s encouragement at Durban Girls High School that I pursued Biology as a career as I was very good at it and I was naturally inquisitive when it came to the subject,’ explained Hlongwane.

Hlongwane expressed gratitude and excitement in being awarded the scholarship, thanking the donors. ‘Thank you for believing and investing in my dreams. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and I am glad that I was a fitting candidate. Coming from humble beginnings, I believe this scholarship will open doors that I didn’t think could open for
me. It essentially means I’ve been given a platform on the world stage where I can harness the necessary skills that I need to progress and submerge into an international level where I can further broaden my horizon,’ she said.

Elaborating, Hlongwane said she has no plans of slowing down her momentum of academic success, saying this is only a start to greater things to come. ‘I am going to study regenerative medicine in the UK next year. This is a course very close to my heart as stem cell research has very promising prospects especially for the treatment and potential cures of chronic illnesses such as HIV and diabetes. I hope to gather research skills which I can come back and transfer to South Africa, both as an academic and a scientist,’ she said.

Ms Hlongwane’s mother, Ms Nomfundu Qondani, expressed delight in her daughter’s achievement as well as gratitude to the scholarship donors. ‘Thank you for giving my child this opportunity. I am so proud of her. I hope she continues to excel in her studies. I hope that this serves as encouragement to other young people and students that there is a reward for working hard and that focusing on education is very important. An educated child is a powerful child,’ said Qondani.
UKZN DOCTORAL RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP REWARDS PHD CANDIDATE’S SACRIFICE

Ms Athandwe Paca, a PhD candidate in Chemistry in the School of Chemistry and Physics (SCP), is the recipient of a UKZN Doctoral Research Scholarship; one of the University’s most prestigious awards for postgraduate students awarded from the University’s own funds to a maximum of four top PhD candidates to enable their research.

‘I am very honoured to be a recipient of this scholarship,’ said Paca.

‘Receiving this scholarship is a great milestone for me and is a confirmation that my sacrifices are not in vain. I believe that with great passion and diligence, the sky is the limit, and this award will enable me to progress further in continuing to achieve greater heights in my academic career,’ she said.

Paca said that the scholarship would assist her with living expenses and allow her to focus on her PhD studies, which involve research on the development of novel functionalised hybrid core-shell microgel nanocomposites as therapeutic agents for cancer treatment. These microgels are among the most promising nanomaterials applied in drug delivery systems, and Paca’s work supposes that metal-containing microgels could be engineered to deliver and release drugs in a regulated manner to prolong their activity in a biological environment.
Paca, who graduated summa cum laude with her Master’s in Chemistry in April 2018, published two papers in the journals of Nanomaterials and Materials Chemistry and Physics from the thesis that she completed within a year. She focused her Master’s research on the synthesis, optical and structural studies of iron sulphide nanomaterials, exploring methods of preparing these materials to tune their unique optical and structural properties for biomedical applications.

Paca says that her previous work has honed her skills and enabled her to make the most of the material involved in her PhD project.

Paca expressed her gratitude to UKZN for this recognition of her academic achievements, saying that she is proud to be a part of the Institution.

‘I will continue to apply the same diligence and represent UKZN through publications and other research outputs,’ she said.

Ever since visiting the annual science festival in Grahamstown as a teenager, Paca has been passionate about science and has cultivated a sense of curiosity about the field of chemistry. She completed her BSc and Honours at Rhodes University and the University of Fort Hare respectively before joining UKZN.

She received National Research Foundation (NRF) Innovation Scholarships in support of her Honours and Masters research.

Paca’s long-term goals include becoming an academic and leading her own research group focusing on drug discovery to address diseases such as cancer and HIV/AIDS that are an economic burden on South Africa and rely mostly on first-world countries for drugs and treatments.

Paca anticipates that her PhD work will present new opportunities, and aims to use the time to establish the foundations of a prosperous career in research.

‘I’m eager to take advantage of the facilities and expertise this Institution has, and I also want to contribute with my own expertise and interests,’ she said.

Author and Photograph: Christine Cuénod
Caption: Ms Athandwe Paca, proud recipient of a UKZN Doctoral Research Scholarship.
Mr Dhiven Naidoo, a young and brilliant BSc in Mechanical Engineering student, was awarded the College Deputy Vice-Chancellors (DVC) Scholarship for his outstanding academic performance.

This Scholarship is awarded to the three top-ranked undergraduate students proceeding from second to subsequent years of study in each of the four colleges at the University. This award recognises top performance over two or more years of undergraduate study.

Naidoo, whose role model is the late icon Nelson Mandela, was excited about receiving this scholarship as it reflected his hard work and dedication.

His favourite quote by Mandela being ‘education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world;’ Naidoo believes that he (Mandela) granted him the opportunity and access to education. ‘Mandela’s belief in the power of education made me respect the opportunity I have to study Engineering in South Africa and motivated me to do my best,’ he said.

The ability to contribute to the infrastructure of South Africa is what motivated him to study engineering. His passion for Formula 1 racing also played a huge role in this decision.

Once he completes his degree, he intends to apply for a graduate program within a reputable company. In the long run, he wants to be financially secure and travel the world.

Thankful to the scholarship sponsors for assisting him to secure his future, Naidoo hopes to one day be financially secure enough to help other students also realise their educational dreams.

His parents are also grateful for the scholarship. ‘We believe that Dhiven has done his best in his studies and deserves what he has achieved,’ said Mr and Mrs Naidoo.

Author: Manqoba Hadebe
Caption: Mr Dhiven Naidoo, College DVC Scholarship awardee.
Photograph: Rajesh Jantilal
COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

1. PRESTIGIOUS DOCTORAL RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP FOR HEALTH SCIENCES PHD CANDIDATE

2. UKZN SPORT SCIENCE STUDENT SCOOPS TWO SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDS

3. STRONG WILLED DOCTOR HONORED AS DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

4. VINCENT MAPHAI SCHOLARSHIP AWARD FOR YOUNG RESEARCHER
PRESTIGIOUS DOCTORAL RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP FOR HEALTH SCIENCES PHD CANDIDATE

College of Health Sciences’ Public Health Medicine PhD candidate, Mr John Mogaka, has succeeded in clinching the highly regarded UKZN Doctoral Research Scholarship.

To obtain the award, a College’s top five percent of PhD candidates are assessed in the areas of intellectual strength, research aptitude and purposefulness. The highest performing candidate among them is awarded the scholarship as motivated by evidence.

‘This prestigious, highly competitive scholarship, will go a long way in helping me to ably handle my PhD research project which focuses on the emerging field of Precision Medicine,’ said Mogaka. ‘It will not only assist me with living costs on campus, but also in the data collection and analysis stages of my study and hopefully, in travelling to academic conferences to present research findings,’ he added.

Mogaka graduated with his Master’s degree in Medical Sciences cum laude. He has also presented research papers at several academic conferences and co-authored papers with his previous and present academic supervisors; with publications in accredited journals.

His PhD research applies Agent-Based Modelling and Simulation methodology in determining the extent of influence of individual precision medicine drivers with respect to its development and implementation in health systems in resource-constrained settings.

He believes his study has potential to shift paradigms in the multidisciplinary fields of implementation science and precision medicine which is at the intersection of
genomic medicine, socio-cultural and environmental determinants of health.

‘At the very center of precision medicine are the “omics” technologies consisting of genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, transcriptomics and other biological advances that are now increasingly being applied to customise healthcare to individual and homogenous population subsets,’ explained Mogaka.

According to him, his chosen study approach not only challenges, but seeks to go beyond existing models, theories, research approaches and methods to address seminal medical and social-technological complexities that ideals of precision medicine present at the health systems level; especially in resource limited settings (RLS).

‘It is this belief that makes me appreciate being awarded the UKZN Doctoral Research Scholarship as an inestimably significant funding support. It will further enhance my aspirations for present research, especially given that I am applying novel methodologies in healthcare in the form of computational social sciences,’ he said.

Mogaka’s family is equally excited about his achievement. To them, it is a source of motivation that academic excellence is rewarded. ‘It’s also a source of financial comfort since they can concentrate on other issues rather than being worried about my financial circumstances. My children are also motivated to work harder in their endeavors; hoping to get recognition along the way. For my wife, who is also a PhD student, this scholarship is confirmation that UKZN rewards academic aptitude,’ he added.

Mogaka’s near-future plan is to make his PhD work highly published in relevant high impact journals. He also has his eye on more public speaking engagements since he knows written and verbal presentations go hand-in-hand with academic excellence.

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**Author:** Nombuso Dlamini  
**Caption:** College of Health Sciences’ Public Health Medicine PhD candidate, Mr John Mogaka, who clinched the highly regarded UKZN Doctoral Research Scholarship.
UKZN SPORT SCIENCE STUDENT SCOOPS TWO SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDS

‘I feel highly honoured and grateful to be rewarded and recognised for my hard work and dedication to my studies,’ said Bachelor of Sport Science student Ms Casey Naude after receiving the Townley Williams Scholarship and Lawrence and Constance (LC) Robinson Scholarship awards.

‘I invest a lot of time and effort into my studies and receiving these scholarship awards gives me a great feeling of accomplishment as I know my hard work is paying off. It’s also a great financial help as I work part-time to assist my parents,’ she said.

The Townley Williams Scholarship is awarded to the best student entering the final year of study in a first degree (excluding Medicine). The Lawrence and Constance (LC) Robinson Scholarship is awarded to the best undergraduate student in the entire University.

Naude’s family is proud of her achievements. Knowing how proud her parents are of her and their constant love and support guides her through her studies.

Once Naude has completed her degree in Sport Science, she plans to do her Honours in Biokinetics. ‘I would love to open my own practice one day. I would love to aid in the advancement of the Sport Science industry and this is what motivates me and keeps me dedicated,’ she said.

She advised her fellow students to work hard and try their best. ‘We must remember that we have been given this amazing opportunity to study and potentially be the leaders of the sporting industry, so it’s up to us to work as hard as we can to advance our industry.’

Naude thanked funders of the scholarships for allowing her the opportunity to continue her studies with much needed financial support. ‘It has been a tremendous financial help for my parents who were previously supporting me. I really appreciate the help and recognition and will continue to give of my best,’ she said.

Author: Nombuso Dlamini
Caption: Ms Casey Naude who received the Townley Williams Scholarship and Lawrence and Constance (LC) Robinson Scholarship awards.
Photograph: Rajesh Jantilal
STRONG WILLED DOCTOR HONORED AS DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

Dr Lisha Jeena, an alumnus in the School of Clinical Medicine in the College of Health Sciences, is a proud recipient of the UKZN 2018 Distinguished Student Award.

The Distinguished Student Award recognises and rewards students with outstanding academic achievement who have also shown excellence in community engagement or exceptional University service.

Two awards are made each year to the most talented, caring and exceptional graduates and young leaders from final-year undergraduate or honours level who have distinguished themselves and have been judged as being most exemplary in embodying the ideals and attributes that the University seeks to create in every graduate.

Having completed her MBChB (class of 2017), Jeena has maintained academic excellence throughout her six years of study; having achieved a Deans Commendation in every semester at Medical school. Additionally, she has achieved Certificates of Merit in five of six final-year subjects. She is graduating cum laude and has been awarded several subjects prizes.

As a Research Placement at CAPRISA, Jeena has published two papers during her studies. She is a first author of a paper entitled *Tuberculosis treatment outcomes among peri-urban children receiving doorstep tuberculosis care* published in the *International Journal of TB and Lung Disease*. She also co-authored a paper entitled *Cytomegalovirus retinitis and HIV: Case reviews from KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa* which was published in the *South African Medical Journal*.

While it may be easy to become disheartened in a world filled with gross inequality and poverty, Jeena replaced her frustration with action, founding the UKZN branch of Friends of Medecins Sans Frontieres (FoMSF or Doctors Without Borders). Through this, she pioneered various awareness campaigns, fundraising events and community-conscious projects. Of note is the health day events at which community members are screened for hypertension, diabetes, tuberculosis, HIV and general hygiene. It all started with the simple idea of using the skills being obtained in Medical school to help people. This has now grown into a series of health screening events throughout the year at which hundreds of people across KwaZulu-Natal are assisted.
The 24-year-old doctor has excelled in numerous leadership positions. She was Chairperson of the UKZN FoMSF and subsequently elected onto the National FoMSF Executive Committee. She was President of the UKZN debating union and led the largest ever delegation of debaters to the national debating tournament that year. Furthermore, she was on the sixth Year Class Events Committee, a Peer Wellness Mentor, and Vice-Chairperson of the Hindu Students Association on campus.

‘I am grateful to receive this prestigious award and feel excited by the opportunity it has opened up to me. My entire family is proud of my hard work and perseverance,’ said Jeena.

Jeena is currently working as a medical intern at Dora Nginza Hospital, in Port Elizabeth. She says this award acknowledges her commitment to education and she is planning to continue challenging herself in both research and clinical medical practice. ‘Ngiyabonga kakhulu (thank you very much) to the funders,’ she said, adding, ‘Let your work ethic and product precede you. It is never too late to learn something new. Never give up.’

Author: Lihle Sosibo
Caption: Dr Lisha Jeena, proud recipient of the UKZN 2018 Distinguished Student Award.
Photograph: Rajesh Jantilal
These were the words of Ms Merantha Moodley upon hearing the news that she has earned herself the Vincent Maphai Scholarship Award. ‘The scholarship provides me with a safety net knowing that I have funds available to further my studies,’ she said.

This scholarship - awarded to the top-ranked Master’s student in the entire University - is named after Dr Vincent Maphai, the first UKZN Council Chairman, former BHP Billiton South Africa Chairman and holder of many other cooperate offices.

Moodley, 23 - who is nearing the tail-end of her Master’s studies in Medical Sciences in the School of Laboratory Medicine and Medical Sciences - is incredibly proud of herself and her hard work. She intends on completing her PhD degree in the next three years.

‘I am very thankful to my Honour’s supervisor, Dr Bongani Nkambule, who not only taught me about flow cytometry, but went above and beyond his role to guide our group on scientific writing; delivering impactful presentations,

‘Just the title of the scholarship itself makes a tremendous impact on the way I value myself. Now I believe in my capabilities so much more and I am able to set the bar even higher for myself to climb up that ladder of success even faster.’
statistical analysis and applying for research grants. Finding out that I am the top-ranked master’s student is just the cherry on top,’ she said.

Moodley’s master’s research project focuses on Pre-eclampsia and HIV; the top-ranked women’s health disorders. She is exploring the role of neutrophil extracellular traps in HIV-associated pre-eclampsia under the supervision of Professor Anita Naicker at the Optics and Imaging Centre. Her project involves the use of immunohistochemistry and morphometric image analysis to analyse these neutrophil extracellular traps.

‘I am incredibly thankful to Professor Naicker for her impeccable guidance on my research project thus far. I would also like to thank the entire team at the Optics and Imaging centre for their help, guidance and support,’ she said.

Moodley said being a researcher has allowed her to break boundaries in discovering novel breakthroughs which adds to the current body of knowledge and will have a positive impact on society and their wellbeing. She would love to have the opportunity to present her research internationally one day.

‘Embrace your weaknesses and work on them with dedication to turn them into strengths. When you find the joy in what you do, there won’t be a single thing that you can’t get through. Work hard, stay humble and always help the people around you. You are more than you think you are. From the bottom of my heart, I would like to thank funders of the Vincent Maphai Scholarship. This scholarship provides a platform to motivate aspiring young researchers such as myself to be noticed as we reach for the stars and reap the fruit of success,’ she advised.

Author: Lihle Sosibo  
Caption: Ms Merantha Moodley (left) received the Vincent Maphai Scholarship from Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim, CAPRISA Associate Scientific Director.  
Photograph: Rajesh Jantilal
COLLEGE OF
HUMANITIES

1. EDUCATION STUDENT DEFIES THE ODDS TO RECEIVE DISTINGUISHED STUDENT AWARD

2. HUMANITIES STUDENTS AWARDED PRESTIGE SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP

3. SOCIAL SCIENCES STUDENT AWARDED 50TH ANNIVERSARY ENDOWMENT FUND SCHOLARSHIP

4. MALEGAPURU W MAKGOBA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FOR FIVE HUMANITIES STUDENTS
Education Honours student, Ms Zanemvula Duma, is the proud recipient of the prestigious UKZN Distinguished Student Award which rewards and recognises students with outstanding academic achievement together with excellence in community engagement or exceptional university service as reflected in the University’s vision, mission and goals.

This scholarship award is unique in the sense that it is based on nominations from staff for students in the University and is funded by the Institution’s Teaching and Learning Office.

Duma is the first student from the School of Education to receive the award. ‘This award is directed at the goals I have,’ she said proudly. ‘There is deep meaning in this for me and validation in my pursuit to bring change to many lives. Charity begins at home and the world tomorrow, because we need each other as a global family. My family, especially my mother, is so proud. When I called her to deliver the news, she sang and cried with joy. For my parents, it is pride and joy accompanied by validation that I will achieve the goals I always speak of. I rarely ever celebrate my achievements but this calls for a celebration,’ she said.

Duma attended Umzinto Secondary School where she excelled in both academic and leadership roles. She also sang gospel music; competing at provincial competitions. Despite facing financial difficulties, she proved her academic prowess at UKZN. ‘In my search for financial assistance, I knocked on so many doors and each one was shut,’ said Duma. Adding
to that strain, she suffered from depression after the passing away of her sister in 2011. ‘That was, by far, the most difficult time in my life. My social anxieties were at their peak. Community and university service have since helped me to overcome many of my social anxieties,’ she said.

The Scholarship will not only give Duma financial freedom but will also enable her to give back to her community and university by donating part of the award to the organisation/s of her choice. ‘Choosing just one or two organisations to give back to will be a very difficult task as all the organisations that I have been involved in are more than deserving,’ she said.

She thanked her family and friends for their support and UKZN for awarding her the scholarship. ‘Do things for people without expectation and watch the universe do greater things for you,’ she said.

Author: Melissa Mungroo
Caption: Ms Zanemvula Duma, proud recipient of the prestigious UKZN Distinguished Student Award. Photograph: Rajesh Jantilal
HUMANITIES STUDENTS AWARDED PRESTIGE SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP

College of Humanities students Mr Ashley De Beer, Mr Brogan Boulle, Ms Courtney Bolt, Ms Brie Terry Parker, Mr Mfan’fikile Dlamini and Mr Mikaeel Mirza were awarded UKZN Prestige Sports Scholarships for outstanding achievements in sports at provincial, national and international levels.

De Beer, who plays for Golden Arrows Football Club, was thrilled to be able to now study at UKZN. He sees getting a degree as vital in order to be successful. ‘The scholarship will assist me in achieving one of my biggest goals which is financial independence. I will be able to give my future children the best opportunities in life. It will also open doors on the sporting front,’ said De Beer. He attended Carter High School in Pietermaritzburg where he represented KwaZulu-Natal in football for four years. He now plans to complete his degree in Social Sciences and is looking forward to postgraduate studies in the future.

Boulle, who plays rugby for Sharks U19, is honoured to receive the scholarship. ‘My family and I are so grateful. Receiving the scholarship is a great help financially as I can study and play rugby for UKZN,’ he said. Boulle played First Team Rugby from 2015 to 2017 and filled the position of Vice Captain at Westville Boys’ High. He was selected for provincial representation. Boulle also played First Team Rugby Sevens and took part in Athletics; receiving Honours for Rugby and Full Colours for Rugby 7s. ‘I have told people what an amazing institution UKZN is. It allows me to participate in the Varsity Cup Rugby tournament which betters my rugby experience,’ he said.
Bolt, who played netball for KZN U18 in 2016, KZN Midlands U23 in 2017 and KZN Midlands U19 in 2018, attended Westville Girls High and was Captain for Action Netball, part of the Swimming Squad and made Vice-Captain for KZN Midlands Action Netball team in 2018. ‘During my matric year, I had terrible headaches and had to undergo surgery. Due to the headaches, I was not able to participate in sport, but when I was awarded the scholarship, it gave me another reason to push through and to prove not only to myself, but to other people that I am good at what I do and I have the strength and determination to get through it,’ she said. She plans on getting her Doctorate in either Criminology or Psychology and sees scholarships of this nature as important for ‘budding sportswomen to be able to study and play sport as well as give them that boost of self-confidence.’

Parker, who swims for the South Africa Youth Team, is excited about receiving the scholarship. She was homeschooled and completed her matric through Cambridge. ‘I have always maintained a balance between my academic dreams and my sport ambitions.’ Parker is a competitive swimmer and currently ranks in the top 20 in South Africa. She plans to pursue her dream of swimming in the Olympics and become a Sports Psychologist.

Dlamini plays football SA U20. He considers this scholarship a blessing to him and his family. ‘It really means a lot. I can focus more on my studies and continue to excel in sports and represent UKZN.’ Dlamini went to Pinetown Boys High where he was captain of the soccer team. He won Player of the Tournament in the Kloof tournament and Sportsman of the Year at school in Grade 12. He also represented the province at various sporting competitions. His future plans include playing football professionally for the PSL and to, one day, sign to an international football club.

Mirza, who plays badminton SA U19, feels a deep sense of happiness and relief knowing that his education is now taken care of financially. His dream is to play in the Olympics. ‘Badminton is a very costly sport to play. In order for me to qualify for the Olympics, I have to play many tournaments both internationally and nationally and have the means to pay for the training and equipment. This was always very difficult to do whilst pursuing a degree at university,’ said Mirza. He hopes to find sponsors to invest in his dream of competing in the Olympics. He attended Durban High School, participating in multiple sports such as soccer, basketball, swimming, athletics badminton, rugby and squash. As a badminton player, he went on to win silver at the All Africa games in his final year of captaincy.

The students are thankful to the University and the sponsors of the scholarship. They have vowed to continue to excel both on the sports fields and in the academic arena.

Author: Melissa Mungroo
Caption: From left: Ms Brie Terry Parker, Ms Ms Courtney Bolt, Mr Brogan Boulle and Mr Ashley De Beer. Also pictured is Mr Makael Mirza.
Photographs: Rajesh Jantilal and Mikael Mirza
SOCIAL SCIENCES STUDENT AWARDED 50TH ANNIVERSARY ENDOWMENT FUND SCHOLARSHIP

Social Sciences student, Ms Katherine Anderson, was awarded UKZN’s 50th Anniversary Endowment Fund Scholarship for her outstanding academic achievement during her first year of study.

Anderson is grateful for the scholarship and is now more motivated to excel academically. ‘Scholarships are important because they allow one opportunities that may not be possible and creates a sense of pride and honour. The impossible made possible,’ she said.

Speaking about her high school academic years, Anderson was awarded an Academic and Dance Scholarship to attend Crawford College in La Lucia. ‘I am so grateful to my educators who taught me above all to think outside the box. They helped nurture me into the person I have become today. We were taught that “every child is a masterpiece”.

At Crawford College, she received many awards for academics and dance including Junior and Senior Colours for Academics and Honours for Dance, which is her absolute passion. She was also in the top five from Grades 8-12.

Anderson plans to pursue her postgraduate studies in the future. Advising other students, she said, ‘Don’t take things for granted especially when you have been blessed with many opportunities. Never look down on someone unless you are helping them up.’

‘My family and I have been overwhelmed by the awarding of this scholarship. I have worked very hard and consistently because I know the sacrifices they have made to enable me to study further. Hard work always pays off and my parents are so proud of me,’ she said.

Author: Melissa Mungroo
Caption: Social Sciences student, Ms Katherine Anderson, who was awarded UKZN’s 50th Anniversary Endowment Fund Scholarship.
Photograph: Supplied
Five deserving students from the College of Humanities: Ms Katherine Steinke, Ms Sithokozile Dlamini, Ms Rayne Redinger, Ms Raeesa Mahommed and Ms Brie Parker, have each received the Malegapuru W Makgoba Scholarship Award.

Psychology student Redinger believes that receiving such an award creates incentive to continue to work hard and strive towards academic excellence. ‘Having my efforts and hard work recognised and rewarded is extremely encouraging. The scholarship relieves a considerable amount of financial pressure and allows me to focus on my academic achievement without having the added financial stress of tuition fees,’ she said. Redinger attended Port Shepstone High School where she was deputy head girl and athletics team captain. She also represented the student council of learners on the governing body and received an Honours award in both academics and athletics. Her future plans include pursuing her postgraduate studies. ‘Nothing is more rewarding than striving towards reaching your full potential. Work hard and always give it your best because it pays off,’ she urged fellow students.

Social Sciences student, Mahommed, was also overjoyed to hear she was receiving the scholarship. ‘I am extremely honoured as my belief in the positive outcome of hard work, perseverance and dedication is reinforced. It means a
wealth of opportunities, a promise of a better future as well as the ability to continue working diligently and believing in my capabilities,’ she said. The Rydalpark Secondary School alumnus achieved seven distinctions, an A aggregate and placed amongst the top 10 in the Mafukuzela Gandhi Circuit at the end of her matric in 2016. Throughout high school, she was a smart worker and part of many quizzes and debates. She plans to pursue her postgraduate studies and work extremely hard to be able to help many other students who have big dreams. ‘Adopting the correct balance to your life will enable you to excel in your studies without feeling a sense of disappointment and a feeling of absence during family social events,’ said Mohammed.

Parker, also a Social Sciences student, sees scholarships of this nature as essential as they reward students who work hard and motivate them to work harder, which adds to the academic excellence of the University.

‘I am excited about receiving the scholarship and feel rewarded that my effort has been recognised. Receiving the scholarship has been a massive morale boost and has encouraged me to work even harder and increase the effort that I put into my studies. My brother and sister are currently both studying; thus, my parents have been under incredible financial strain. This scholarship has allowed me to focus on my studies rather than having to seek work to pay tuition fees. I am not a financial burden to anyone this year,’ she said. Parker was home-schooled and completed her matric through Cambridge which allowed her to be well prepared for studying at UKZN. She always maintained a balance between her academic dreams and her sporting ambitions. She is also a competitive swimmer and currently ranks in the top 20 in swimming in South Africa. She plans to pursue her dream of swimming in the Olympics as well as qualify as a Sports Psychologist.

‘University is that one beautiful opportunity in life that you will probably look back on as the best time in your life, so make it count. Choose subjects you are passionate about and enjoy them no matter how your peers seem to react. Remember, you can do anything, so start believing in your abilities and reach for the stars,’ she advised other students.

Author: Melissa Mungroo
Caption: Ms Brie Parker, Ms Rayne Redinger, Ms Reesa Mohammed and Ms Sithokozile Dlamini; the proud recipients of the Malegapuru W Makgoba Scholarship Award.
Photograph: Rajesh Jantilal
1. UKZN GROWS ITS OWN TIMBER TO TRANSFORM ACADEMIA

2. UKZN DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR ILEMBE HEALTH DISTRICT DEPUTY DIRECTOR

3. SUCCESS ON AND OFF THE FIELD FOR UKZN’S SOCCER STAR

4. SUCCESS AGAINST ALL ODDS FOR FRENE GINWALA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
In an effort to contribute towards the transformation of the academic landscape in South Africa, the University of KwaZulu-Natal’s Human Resources Development Unit established the Talent Excellence and Equity Acceleration Scholarship in 2014 which forms part of the University’s Graduate Development Programme.

The Scholarship targets top performing Undergraduate African students in their final year of study with the aim to nurture and groom them for academic positions at UKZN.

One of the 2018 recipients of this Scholarship is Master of Laws *cum laude* graduate, Mr Andile Khumalo, who has embarked on a PhD journey in order to contribute, in a meaningful way, to South Africa’s knowledge development. ‘I am passionate about the law and my dream is to contribute in some meaningful way towards the development of our country’s legal system, particularly in the sphere of Employment Law. I believe that labour is an integral aspect of life because it ultimately determines the quality of life that people eventually lead,’ he said.

Khumalo is currently employed as a Labour Legal Advisor at the Small Enterprise Employers of South Africa (SEESA) which is a labour consultancy firm in Durban. He believes...
that the exposure he is acquiring at SEESA will enable him to gain the necessary practical experience regarding the subject matter that forms the basis of his research for PhD and later make him a well-rounded scholar.

‘The Scholarship comes with many benefits, including coaching and mentoring that develops the candidates as academics,’ said Ms Busisiwe Ramabodu, Human Resources Development Director at UKZN. ‘The other major benefit is that each candidate is guaranteed an academic post at UKZN upon completion of their doctoral studies,’ she added.

Over the past four years, 20 out 35 recipients of the Scholarship are doctoral candidates, with the balance of the students pursuing Honours and Master’s degrees. One participant is already an employee at UKZN.

Khumalo is proud to be one of the recipients of this remarkable scholarship. ‘The scholarship’s aims and objectives are truly transformative and commendable. I feel particularly privileged to have been awarded the scholarship. I hope to make the most of it and become one of its success stories.’

As the eldest of two siblings, Khumalo is determined to be a good example to them and to inspire them to believe that anything is possible if they set their minds on it and work hard to achieve it.

Author: Hazel Langa
Caption: UKZN Director of Human Resources Development, Ms Busisiwe Ramabodu congratulating the recipient of the Talent Excellence and Equity Scholarship, Mr Andile Khumalo.
Photograph: Rajesh Jantilal
The Deputy Director responsible for Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation at the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health, iLembe District, Ms Roshilla Sahadeo, is currently in the second-year of reading for a doctoral degree in Public Administration which is funded through the UKZN Doctoral Research Scholarship that is awarded to a maximum of only four top PhD candidates at UKZN.

Her PhD study builds on the Master’s Degree, obtained in 2015, and looks into the contemporary issue of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Health Service Delivery. ‘The current challenge is to expand attention of DRR administration for health from that of a reactive and recovery approach to a more pre-emptive slant which heightens preparedness and extenuation of public health services in the district,’ she said.

Sahadeo believes there is a need for an integrated framework to DRR. Working under the guidance of Professor Mogie Subban from the UKZN School of Management, IT and Governance, she is hopeful that her study will highlight the need for uninterrupted health service delivery amidst the cumulative occurrences of internal and external disaster threats currently within the health sector. ‘I am looking forward to accomplishing this milestone with the constant
unwavering support of my good professor and supervisor,’ she said. The duo has achieved great strides since 2015 having published in accredited academic journals. Their paper titled Disaster Risk Reduction Perspectives in Health Service Delivery in South Africa was featured in the *International Journal of Social Sciences and Humanity Studies*, Volume 9, Issue 2, 2017. This publication followed the presentation at the 8th International Conference for Social Sciences which was held in Durban in 2017.

Sahadeo is currently preparing another research paper for presentation at the International Conference for Social Sciences in George, Western Cape, at the end of August 2018 which will be followed by attendance and participation at a conference to be hosted by the Association of Southern African Schools and Departments of Public Administration and Management in Bloemfontein in September. Sahadeo and Subban plan to submit their papers for consideration for publication in DHET journals.

Subban is pleased with Sahadeo’s academic achievements, she said: ‘I am elated that my doctoral student Roshilla Sahadeo scooped a College Scholarship for her studies. She is a diligent and dedicated student and is making great strides and the right moves to accomplish her goal. I am grateful to the College Leadership and Dean for the support received.’

Sahadeo is also grateful to UKZN and the leadership of the School of Management, Information Technology and Governance for continued academic and financial support. ‘I am proud to be associated with the University which “Inspires Greatness”. I am so glad that I made UKZN my University of Choice,’ she said.

Sahadeo’s passion and commitment to her studies has inspired her children to also focus on their studies; with her son Samir currently pursuing studies as a medical student at UCT and her daughter, Sonum working hard to excel in high school.

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**Author:** Hazel Langa  
**Caption:** Ms Roshilla Sahadeo (right) celebrating her award with her supervisor, Professor Mogie Subban.  
**Photograph:** Rajesh Jantilal
SUCCESS ON AND OFF THE FIELD FOR UKZN’S SOCCER STAR

From the time he chose to take up soccer as a full-time sport in 2011, Bachelor of Commerce student and Maritzburg United FC soccer player Mr Conal Cone knew that he would have to find a way to balance his love for the game and numbers.

Fast forward to 2018, 18-year-old Conal is doing just that! The UKZN Prestige Sports Scholarship recipient whose impressive football career has seen him play an international tournament with the Golden Arrows under 19 team against renowned teams such as Arsenal and Portugal’s Sporting Lisbon in 2016 making this scholarship the cherry on top.

‘Balancing sport and studies has never been easy as sport requires a lot from your body, both physically and mentally, leaving very little energy to sit down and study. Luckily for me I also have a passion for learning new things in the classroom and that desire has carried me forward. I am forever grateful to UKZN for allowing me to pursue my studies. I can’t express how much the scholarship means to me as it allows me to chase my dreams both in the classroom and on the field,’ said Conal.

While his future plans include becoming a professional footballer in South Africa and later playing in Europe, Conal also plans to use his academic qualification to establish himself as a successful entrepreneur.

‘As of next year (my second-year) I would like to study economics as I believe in empowering and equipping myself to successfully run my own business one day. I would love to inspire many South Africans and show them that anything is possible and I hope to one day be in a position to do that.’

Author: Thandiwe Jumo
Caption: Mr Conal Cone, UKZN Prestige Sports Scholarship recipient.
Photograph: Rajesh Jantilal
SUCCESS AGAINST ALL ODDS FOR FRENE GINWALA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

The challenges of being raised by an unemployed single mother sustaining a family on a seamstress’s income; sometimes having to go to school on an empty stomach and not having enough money for registration because of a lack of financial aid are the odds Frene Ginwala Scholarship recipient Ms Thembelihle Thusi faced in her pursuit of academic excellence.

The 18-year-old Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting student, who hails from Inanda’s KwaMshayazafe’s Township says that seeing how a lack of Higher Education limited opportunities for her mother increased her drive for success.

‘From a young age, my mom would tell me that she wished she could provide more for me and my older brother and was doing the best she could from the social grant and money she gets from selling the pinafores she sews,’ says Thusi. ‘Despite all of my family’s socio-economic challenges, my mom always made sure that I had everything I needed and I’ve never missed a day of school even if it meant going to school on an empty stomach as studying is more than just an option for me, it is a must and it still is,’ she added.

While this scholarship belongs to Thusi, she is however dedicating it to her mother, Winnie, for her unyielding support. Speaking about her daughter’s achievement, Thusi’s mother said that she believes that education will open a lot of doors for her child.

Said the proud mother, ‘My parents believed that a girl’s place was in the kitchen and therefore never encouraged me to go to school. I want better for my child because I know the struggles of not being able to get a decent job because you aren’t qualified. I know we don’t have a lot but with the support of our neighbours and the little that I make, she has never missed a day of school and we are surviving. Now thanks to her teachers at Inanda Newtown Comprehensive
High School who collectively put money together for her to pay for her registration fees when financial aid hadn’t come through and now this scholarship, our financial burdens where her tuition is concerned will help immensely. My daughter is destined for a bright future.’

Speaking of her bright future, Thusi has ambitions of becoming a businesswoman and uplifting the community that supported her and her family. Her immediate goal remains pursuing a career as a chartered accountant.

Author: Thandiwe Jumo
Caption: Frene Ginwala Scholarship recipient, Ms Thembelihle Thusi.
Photograph: Rajesh Jantilal
Acknowledgments

Executive Editor: Professor Bala Pillay
Managing Editor: Sinegugu Ndlovu and Denise Govender

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Layout and Design:
Nomonde Matilda Mbhele and Vidhya Singh

Photography:
Rajesh Jantilal, College PR Offices, stock images, supplied.