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UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
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The TUKS Scholarship Fund

Your support can change a life, for good

A payroll giving campaign enables UP staff to make their contributions to the TUKS Scholarship Fund. Student organisations have also donated and there is growing support within the alumni community. If everyone does what they can, with what they have – we can all

“Make Today Matter”.



“There are many rough diamonds out there struggling to get into university that moulds them to become influential figures nationally and internationally. Your support could help unearth these unpolished diamonds and help them showcase their greatness,”
says UP alumnus, Melosi Baloyi.





Professor Cheryl de la Rey
Vice-Chancellor and Principal, University of Pretoria

The TUKS Scholarship Fund –

launched by the Vice-Chancellor, supported by a caring community

The University of Pretoria is attracting an increasing number of exceptional academic achievers, but many are unable to afford a tertiary education. The financial stress experienced by a growing percentage of TUKS students affects their ability to focus on their studies.

It is a challenge that requires innovative and empathetic responses to ensure sustainable financial support for the country's next generation of doctors, engineers, teachers, social workers and other professionals.

The TUKS Scholarship Fund was established in 2013 as a strategic, long-term solution to open the doors of learning and discovery for students whose financial situation may prevent them from graduating, or even attending, the University of Pretoria.

Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Cheryl de la Rey, was the first to donate to this Fund designed to help ensure that deserving young students with a passion for improving the world around us are not constrained by a lack of financial resources.

"I would like to appeal to all University of Pretoria staff, students, alumni and other stakeholders to show their support by making a regular contribution to the Fund, thereby helping to elevate the prospects of our students and advancing the public good," says Professor De la Rey.

"We have an individual and a collective responsibility to ensure that we invest in a positive future. Contributions towards the TUKS Scholarship Fund help ensure that the University continues to be a driving force in redefining what is possible in a country that requires skilled, flexible and creative young minds."

Friends of the University, industry partners, parents of students, and members of the public are also encouraged to invest in the growth of the Fund, which supports deserving students across all nine faculties at TUKS.

Building a nation by building TUKS talent

Determination is a trait that money can't buy.

For Melosi Baloyi, UP graduate and actuarial scientist, the hope of a brighter future was the driving force that spurred him on to achieve academic success. *"I have always been a dreamer. Even at a young age I always thought that I would break the barriers and be the first member of my family to go to university and be a business leader,"* says Melosi.

This was not an easy road for the ambitious young man from Soshanguve, north of Pretoria. Like the majority of first generation university students, a lack of money meant that there were many obstacles to overcome.

"At home we struggled to afford basic things like shoes and had to walk barefoot to school. We also had to get used to having only two meals a day since my parents did not have enough money for all of us to take lunch to school. I think this taught me to persevere and endure hardships in pursuit of my dreams," Melosi adds.

The family's financial situation deteriorated to the point that Melosi had to leave school after grade 11 and work in construction to help support his family. His strength of character was exhibited by his response to circumstances that would leave many in despair:

"My dreams did not die when I was forced to leave school," says Melosi. *"I found that I could not fit into the day school model so I had to attend night school part-time. The experience taught me to study well independently, which was valuable when I got to university and I had to drive myself towards my goals."*

Obtaining access to university, a privilege taken for granted by some, is an uphill battle for those on the outskirts of the mainstream economy. The Baloyi family did not have access to the internet, which meant that Melosi could not communicate via e-mail. There were also problems with receiving mail and because both parents did not have permanent employment, Melosi could not afford airtime to call and hold on long enough to make enquiries at universities. Also, the fact that he was a part-time matric student meant that he had to wait for his results to be released in January, making it difficult to submit his university admission application in time. The odds were severely stacked against him, but his hard work and determination resulted in a 'miracle' when he was accepted at UP.

"On 10 January 2008 a lady who worked at UP at the time, and whom I consider a mother and mentor, gave me a lift to the Hatfield Campus to apply for admission in that year. It was very late, but fortunately, the University was impressed with my matric results given that I had studied part-time – I was the best student in Soshanguve, despite not having full-time teacher

support. I applied at eight o'clock in the morning and by eleven o'clock I had secured a place for studying Actuarial Sciences, as well as a room at the university residence, House Taaibos. I thank God for this. After all the hardships I had suffered this was mind-blowing!"

Thanks to a scholarship he received in view of his impressive semester results in his first year, Melosi finally had the means to pay for books, subsistence, accommodation and tuition. And after the burden of financial stress he had known all his life had been alleviated, he was able to thrive! Melosi obtained a BSc Actuarial and Financial Mathematics degree in 2010. He is now working for a leading professional financial services firm. Even though his story has a happy ending, Melosi has not forgotten about others like him – gifted and determined – who also dream of building a better life.

"The experience I had in trying to get to university shows the kind of difficulties that are encountered by many students in situations similar to mine. This drives me to make a difference whenever I can. I believe that we should all be looking to help one or more of these students."

Today Melosi gives of his private time to deliver motivational talks to students living in townships using his inspirational life story to encourage others to pursue their dreams of higher education. He is a member of the Association of South African Black Actuarial Professionals (ASABA), an organisation that encourages high school learners to enter the profession and supports university students to complete their actuarial studies.

"I always think of UP as a place that moulds rough diamonds into well-polished leaders, great thinkers and professionals."






Perseverance and an enabling environment ensures academic success

Idette Pieterse is currently studying BCom Law (LLB) at the University of Pretoria. She came to UP filled with expectations and enthusiasm about being a student at one of the top universities in the country. However, Idette did not know that she would soon encounter a life lesson in managing extreme financial difficulties while focusing on her objective of obtaining a Law degree.

Idette's parents paid for her first year of studies. During her second year however, Idette found herself in dire straits as her parents could no longer support her financially. She applied for – and received – a National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) loan but still faced the constraints of a fluctuating family income. *“The money I received from the NSFAS loan for the following two years was still not enough to keep the boat afloat and I had to start working part time,”* says Idette.



“Although I do agree that overcoming obstacles gives you a strong character,” says Idette, “even Genghis Khan needed to rest every now and then! I remember every time I heard the great news that I would be able to finish my studies due to a burst of funding, I found renewed energy. Relief soon spurred on my motivation and gave me the strength I needed to get through yet another challenge.”

“The burden of having to pay back the loans after receiving my degree was placing a lot of stress on me. R110 000 is a lot for a 21-year-old to pay back; so when in my fourth year an anonymous individual donor paid my tuition for the entire year, I could not believe my luck!”

Keeping her head above water in the academic, personal and financial areas of life is a constant challenge – and she is not alone. Many TUKS students who require funding support face the same daily challenges. *“The stress of trying to finish one’s degree while juggling work – and still not knowing whether there would be food in the house or if one would have to face an eviction notice – was emotionally draining.”*

Since Idette was unable to afford to buy all the required textbooks, one of the mainstays of her studies at UP was having a strong network of friends. Being able to tap into a strong peer support base is essential to academic success.

During her fifth year of study, Idette was fortunate to secure a part-time job as a student assistant in the University. *“Now everything that I receive goes directly towards my student account. My story is one of fun, failure and perseverance. Although I have failed some modules while trying to navigate the various pressures I face every day, I realise it has all been worthwhile now that the victory line for not only my BCom degree – but also my LLB degree – is so close! Through everything, I have come closer to understanding the true meaning of ‘by God’s grace.’”*

Without the NSFAS loans, the help of an “angel donor” and the work-to-study programme at UP, Idette would have been forced to drop out of university and robbed of her dream of becoming one of the best advocates South Africa has ever seen.

Enabling ambitious students to achieve success

Sandile Magagula grew up in Mgbode, a large rural settlement in Mpumalanga. He was inspired to become a businessman while assisting his mum in her spaza shop, and also experienced the informal trading areas of street vending and flea markets.

Motivated by the encouragement of his Accounting teacher who praised his good marks, Sandile began dreaming about pursuing tertiary education. Since he was the first one in the family to embark on the journey of higher education, his mother asked someone from the community to assist her son.

His father sacrificed an entire month's salary to be able to afford the registration fee. The person that had brought him to Pretoria was unable to assist him any further and he therefore had to live in a shack, renting it for R200 per month, provided by his mother.

First generation students at university face unique challenges. Aside from having to adjust to a demanding learning environment, they experience severe anxiety caused by the uncertainty of not securing adequate funding. *"There is a constant fear of the unknown, as there is never a guarantee of funding in each year of study," says Sandile.*

During the year, he learnt about NSFAS funding. Sandile applied for funding, not sure whether he would be successful. *"I felt a lot of pressure and fear of failure. It was very challenging living in a new place far away from the love of parents, home comforts and regular meals. But I persisted and passed almost 80% of my first year subjects – well enough to get my tuition paid via NSFAS. It was a really great joy for the whole family!"*

Although he received funding for his tuition, Sandile's family was unable to afford proper accommodation or provide additional money for groceries: *"It was a little challenging at times facing my studies on a poor diet. I also had to travel from Mamelodi to the Hatfield Campus every day for classes, tests and examinations. Transport was not always reliable and I remember once when the train got stuck – on the day of my Financial Management finals! I was an hour late for the paper but fortunately managed to pass."*

Sandile's story echoes the experience of many first generation university students. These are promising young people with a passion and a dream to break the cycle of poverty in their families. Passion and talent – without financial and psycho-social support – are not enough to guarantee these students a chance at a better future. International studies show that there is a high dropout rate among first generation students. This is primarily due to the compound pressure they face, not only in adjusting to the challenging learning environment but also in juggling financial need with often difficult living conditions.

"I have had a constant struggle with landlords who took my money and possessions. Sometimes there would be an enforced lights out, which meant that I had to stay on campus

to study and travel back home late at night.” As a result, Sandile had to move many times during the course of his studies, causing unnecessary disruptions.

Sandile’s resilience enabled him to obtain a BCom Financial Management Sciences degree, as well as an honours degree, despite also suffering personal losses. His mother – who had been a mainstay of support during his studies – passed away in his final undergraduate year. *“I then wanted to dedicate an honours degree to the memory of my mum. I received a bursary from a company that supported me.”* He is currently studying towards a master’s degree.

*Your support truly has the power
to change destinies for generations
to come.*





Building scarce skills by cultivating strong scholarship

Tintswalo Maluleke is a young lady whose story demonstrates the power of education to change the course of a family's history forever. A postgraduate student at the University of Pretoria, Tintswalo is currently doing an MSc in Biotechnology, after having obtained a BSc (Hons) in Biotechnology and a BSc in Genetics.

Tintswalo was born as the middle child in a family of three children. Her father was a taxi driver who was unable to provide fully for his family due to the turbulent nature of the taxi business. As a result, the family relied on their mother's minimal income. *"Most months my dad would be home trying to fix the taxi,"* says Tintswalo. *"When my father passed away in 2005, our family became fully dependent on my mother."*

“I speak for every learner who is faced with a similar or worse situation: give them a chance.”

Many single parent households are forced to make difficult choices and the children often opt to start working to supplement the family income once they have completed matric.

Tintswalo is, however, fortunate to have a mother who places a priority on her children's education. Without the support of bursary funding, she would have been prevented from pursuing a tertiary education. Tintswalo's tale resonates with thousands of other disadvantaged students in South Africa who have to strive to overcome their circumstances and personal history. Although bursary funding is available, obtaining support doesn't guarantee that all university expenses will be covered.

The Maluleke family learned to make sacrifices so the prize of a higher education could be attained. *“Life was particularly difficult because my mum sent only R200 to us on good months – forget about nice clothes and other things that students like – we needed to survive,”* adds Tintswalo. *“During December, we would sit at home and entertain each other as opposed to spending, so that we could save money for registration and books for each successive year. My sister also worked at a retail store just to make ends meet.”*

The TUKS Scholarship Fund was established as a strategic, long-term solution to open the doors of learning and discovery for students – like Tintswalo – whose financial situation may prevent them from graduating or even attending TUKS.

“I would encourage donors to support the TUKS Scholarship Fund because their money does not fall on the ground,” says Tintswalo. *“I speak for every learner who is faced with a similar or worse situation: give them a chance.”*

Tintswalo's sister is now working as an auditor at a multinational professional services firm. Once Tintswalo has completed her postgraduate qualifications, she will also enter the work force as a highly qualified and determined young person ready to take on the world.

Your regular contribution to the TUKS Scholarship Fund will make a sustained difference, each and every day. The University of Pretoria is immensely grateful for the dedicated and generous support of alumni, parents, donors and friends who have helped to build and sustain the University during the more than 100 years of its existence.

We invite you to continue this tradition by supporting the recently launched TUKS Scholarship Fund. As a leading South African university, we need to prepare future generations of leaders to succeed in a more complex, global and ever-changing world.

When you give to the TUKS Scholarship Fund, you will have a direct and immediate impact on the life of a deserving student and contribute to supporting a level of excellence that cannot be sustained through government assistance alone.

If you would like to support students like Melosi, Idette, Sandile and Tintswalo, there are a number of options available to you for making a specific, measurable impact, depending on the contribution you want to make. Donors who contribute non-designated funds may do so via monthly debit orders or online payments. A Section 18(A) tax certificate will be issued to donors to the TUKS Scholarship Fund. This enables donors to claim a tax deduction.

Whatever the level of your giving – from a few hundred rands per year to a hundred thousand or more – your support is valued by the University and the deserving beneficiaries of your generosity.

Visit www.up.ac.za/tsf or contact:



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