

RESTRUCTURED FOR RELEVANCE



## SECURITY OFFICERS GRADUATE

**TWO MEMBERS** of the University of Zululand's Protective Services Department are well on their way to fulfilling their dreams of becoming teachers.

**PICTURED ABOVE:** Phumzile Dlamini and Sizakele Nkalana.

**T**his month, the two middle-aged women swapped their security officers' uniforms for graduation gowns as they both graduated in various disciplines within the Faculty of Education.

On 11 May 2016, Sizakele Nkalana (40) graduated with a degree in B.Ed Foundation Phase degree while her colleague Phumzile Dlamini, (47) earned the Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE).

### **Sizakele Nkalana**

The 40-year-old mother of one has worked at the University of Zululand since January 2008.

"By that time I already had a Travel and Tourism Diploma from a private college. However, after not finding employment in the tourism sector I decided to swallow my pride and enrolled for training as a security officer. After that I landed a job at UNIZULU".

Nkalana says working at an educational institution bolstered her desire to study further. In 2012, she did exactly that and enrolled for the full-time course.

While she managed to finish the degree in three years, she quickly points out that it wasn't as easy as it now seems.

"Sometimes I would knock off work at 6am after doing night shift and then I would go straight to class. Some of the times I couldn't attend lecturers because I also had chores to do at home".

### **Phumzile Dlamini**

Just like her colleague, Dlamini says studying while working full-time was a road fraught with difficulties.

"In some instances I would end up taking a nap in my car while waiting for classes because there was no time to go home and rest after doing the night shift. That car had become everything, there isn't a book you won't find in there, it's more of a library," she said bursting into laughter.

Things got so tough for Dlamini that on many occasions she thought of quitting. However, the love she has for teaching kept her going.

She has had a couple of stints as a substitute teacher, the first one was shortly after she matriculated.

"I have always loved teaching, I think it also has to do with the fact that my mother is a teacher, although she is retired now. So after passing matric in 1995, albeit not having any qualification, I taught at a Primary school for three years".

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## MESSAGE from the Managing Editor



**Terry Stallard**  
Communications and  
Media Coordinator

This month's edition of Ongoye Online celebrates the testimony of hard work and sacrifice that took place to ensure successful graduation of academics and scholars from 2015.

The ceremonies that took place were indeed a wonderful showcase of how UNIZULU support departments worked together to complement safety, security and all the aplomb attributed to ceremonies of this grandeur.

The success stories range from top achievers to scientific breakthrough to two security guards who worked against extreme odds to obtain their qualifications.

New horizons have been set for the UNIZULU choirmaster in a prestigious appointment with a gospel choir.

The dichotomy of life at UNIZULU continues with the First Teaching and Learning conference, campaigns and examinations whilst our graduates step out into a world full of challenges and opportunities.

"Applying knowledge in the world of work for the betterment of society is key because in its education, the soul of a people mirrors itself." Prof KP Dzvimbo. Graduation speech, 12 May 2016.

## UPCOMING EVENT

6-8 July 2016 – The MBALI International Conference, Richards Bay  
<http://mbali.unizulu.ac.za/>

## CAMPUS NEWS

### Top Achievers Honoured

Twenty top achieving students from various faculties at University of Zululand (UNIZULU) were rewarded for their hard work as they walked away with laptop computers and bags at the 2016 graduation ceremonies held earlier this month.

Five top achievers were drawn from each of the four faculties, namely: Arts, Science & Agriculture, Education and Commerce, Administration & Law.

One of the top achievers from the Faculty of Commerce, Administration & Law Sandiswa Madlala who graduated with a BCom Accounting degree, was elated as she was presented with her award on stage. "I'm overwhelmed; we rely a lot on laptops for our projects and assignments. I'm so thankful of this good gesture. Hard work really pays off," said Madlala.

Fellow graduate and one of the top achievers at the Faculty of Arts, Nompumelelo Kubheka from Ladysmith received her Bachelor of Arts degree encouraged students to set enough time to study and trust in God. "I'm currently doing an honours degree and I would love to study overseas at universities like Harvard University and return to UNIZULU to lecture," she said adding that it would be a wonderful way of giving back.



Elizstine Bignaut and Nompumelelo Kubheka were among the twenty top achievers honoured at this year's graduation ceremonies. They are flanked by Faculty of Arts Dean, Professor Gregory Kamwendo (left) and Vice-Chancellor Professor Xoliswa Mtose (right). Both Bignaut and Kubheka graduated with qualifications from the Faculty of Arts.

#### The full list of top achievers from each faculty:

**Education:** Ncediswa Mkhulisi, Zifisoezinhle Zakithi Randy Tshabalala, Nosizo Mngomezulu, Khumbulani Percival Mthembu and Mpopoli Vuma

**Science and Agriculture:** Nozipho Kweyama, Colile Ngcebo, Ikwegbu Paul Chukwudi, Sanelisiwe Khumalo and Mzokhona Ntsebeni

**Arts:** E Bignaut, NJ Mavuso, FP Duma, Nompumelelo Kubheka and TA Mhlanga

**Commerce, Administration & Law:** Sandiswa Madlala, Swelihle Halalisani Mfeka, Mncedisi Tembe, KW Khumalo and Siyabonga Njabulo Ntombela

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## CAMPUS NEWS

### Domestic worker gets BSc Degree



If there was any living proof that determination trumps adversity, then 27-year-old domestic worker Zanele Sibiyi is exactly that. She has just graduated with a BSc degree in Physics and Electronics at the University of Zululand following many years of sweat and tears. Looking back to her graduation day Sibiyi says: "I felt tears welling up in my eyes. I couldn't believe that after all the hardship I had been through I was finally graduating"...

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### Joyous moment as choirmaster joins popular gospel outfit



UNIZULU Choir Conductor, Bhekani Buthelezi is elated after being appointed the Musical Technical Co-ordinator for MTN Joyous Celebration. Speaking after his appointment, Buthelezi said getting appointed to the biggest commercial choir on the continent was a dream come true for him. "I am so scared but very excited at the same time. It is a life changing opportunity which matches my academic skills and the knowledge I got from overseas and a lot of experience that I got from UNIZULU choir". The award winning MTN Joyous Celebration is arguably the country's most successful gospel ensemble...

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### Innovative graduate paves way for improved cancer treatment

Rekha Dunpall, graduated on Tuesday 10th May at the University of Zululand with a PhD (Biochemistry) and is already planning post-doctoral collaborative research with different Universities. The petite woman's face lights up when she shares how she overcame challenges to achieve the unique results of a nanobiotechnology project. She was supervised and mentored by the well-known materials chemist, Prof Neerish Revaprasadu (SARCHi Chair of Nanotechnology) she recently presented their research at the 7th international BioNanoMed 2016 conference, in Austria...



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### Graduation hailed a success

UNIZULU has conferred and awarded qualifications to just over 4000 candidates. The conferring and awarding of qualifications to the 4014 graduates was done during the graduation ceremonies held at the University from 9 to 13 May. The candidates graduated in the four faculties as follows: Arts (1277 graduates); Commerce, Administration & Law (778); Education (1421) and Science and Agriculture (538)...



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### Dr Shamase to present paper at Think Tank conference



Dr Maxwell Shamase, from the History Department, is set to present a paper at conference in Cape Town on 9 June. The conference is organised and hosted by the South African BRICS Think Tank in collaboration with the Institute of Sociology at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. The paper is expected to focus broadly on social administration. One of the objectives of the South African BRICS Think Tank is to provide a platform in which researchers and academics exchange ideas and generate evidence-based policy recommendations.

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### UNIZULU's first teaching and learning conference a success



(L-R) Dr Nontokozi Mashiya, Dr Chrissie Boughey and Dr Yasmin Rugbeer at the conference.

UNIZULU has successfully hosted its very First Teaching and Learning Conference showcasing excellence in higher education teaching and learning. Held at Premier Hotel The Richards in Richards Bay, the conference presented an opportunity for participants to create a community of practitioners who can contribute to the body of knowledge about teaching and learning, as well as benefit from the experience of others...

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### Astronomy workshop held at UNIZULU



Physics and Mathematics Departments had a very enjoyable but intense workshop on "The use of Virtual Observatory in Astronomy". Held on the 16th of May 2016, the workshop was organised by three institutions, namely INAF-Astronomical Observatory of Trieste (Italy), the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) in conjunction with International Astronomical Union (IAU) and of the Physics and Maths Departments of UNIZULU...

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### Sociology signs MoU with LoveLife



The Department of Sociology at the University of Zululand has entered into a collaborative agreement with LoveLife SA, the youth-focussed NGO which promotes HIV-free living healthy lifestyles among the youth. Dr Godfrey Tshabalala, the head of the Sociology Department, said

the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the two parties was because both institutions believe that the discipline and structure provided through sexual and...

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