

UNIZULU

#tag



UNIVERSITY OF
ZULULAND

#News4UsByUs

August - November 2015

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defying gender
stereotypes in sport*

*"I used soap
as toothpaste"
Alumnus tells of
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the USA: **the
choir flies the
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share their secrets*

#Editorial

What you are holding in your hand right now is the last issue of UNIZULU #tag for this year.

We have decided not to print another 2015 issue as we understand that exams are just around the corner.

This can only mean that both our readers (the UNIZULU student population at large) and our contributors (see them on pages 11 and 12) will be pre-occupied with these.

Exams are no doubt one of the most important events in the life of every student.

During this time not only does one's knowledge gets tested but also your mental strength and survival skills are put to the test.

To try and help you cope through this stressful period we spoke to some of our top achievers who shared their secrets with us.

Common in all of these seems to be the assertion that one needs to be well prepared for the exams.

There are other equally interesting stories and pictures in this bumper issue of #tag.

Looking back to the first issue earlier this year, there has been immense improvement to the quality of this magazine. We could not have done it without your support.

Our commitment to keep on improving still stands and we will continue producing UNIZULU #tag next year. There are so many stories of great achievements by students and we will be there to record and tell them.

As this is the last issue of the year we therefore take the opportunity to wish all of you success in your exams. Some of you will be leaving the University for the Job Market, we hope that you continue to make us proud wherever you go.

Also check out our recently created facebook page. We will welcome any feedback or suggestion regarding the magazine.

See you next year!

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Sanele turning heads with his designs

SPHAMANDLA GUMEDE

Sanele Biyela is a real head-turner at KwaDlangezwa Campus as his rather flamboyant dress sense is sure to solicit compliments and even snide remarks wherever he goes.

“I have been called an attention-seeker, I have also been likened to the devil but there are also those who have complimented my style,” he says referring to differing views that his designs solicit.

He is however unfazed by all the attention, saying: “I do not mind much what people think about me. When I’m doing my things I do not do them to impress anyone but myself. I believe all of us are unique” he says.

When he sits down to design his clothes it is because he wants something that appeals to him, he says. It is for this reason that he has avoided designing for other people although there have been many requests.

When he does design for other people it has to be on his own terms. Whether you like his dress sense or not, one thing for sure: it is creative and different.

While the perception is that his clothes are expensive he says this is not the case. “The most I have spent on an outfit is R550 and that is inclusive of everything from buying the material to paying the seamster”

“Despite what people think, I do not come from a financially

stable home,” says the man from Ngwelezane.

After passing matric Biyela was forced to go and work at a petrol station as his mother could not afford to pay tuition for two children as his older sister was at that time still pursuing her studies at UNIZULU.

“My mother earned not more than R2000 a month at that time and my father had just retired and so it was difficult. But I have to say I am very proud of my mother, she is a very strong woman”.

Four years after working at a petrol station, he quit his job at the insistence of his mother who stressed the importance of him furthering his studies.

“I chose B.Ed. because as a teacher I can wear what I want, there is no specific uniform as long as I make sure I am presentable”

He works closely with his friend and mentor Dodo who is both a designer and seamster.

Biyela told UNIZULU #tag that he is hoping one day to have his own label. “I dream of a time when I wouldn’t go to a shop to buy clothes,” he concludes.



Budding scientists ready to make their mark

SIYABONGA MYENI

Passion, diligence and perseverance. These are some of the qualities that have opened doors for aspiring scientists who are currently pursuing their dreams of becoming researchers at the Medical Research Council in Cape Town.

Amsha Viraragavan (22) and Nokulunga Hlengwa (24) are two UNIZULU students who are determined to make a mark in the world of science.

“My ambition is to create a healthy and happy community whereby we don’t need to depend on certain synthetic drugs to make us better,” said Viraragavan.

She enrolled at the University of Zululand in the year 2011 for a degree in Biochemistry and Microbiology following her matriculation at Empangeni High School in 2010.

The Felixton inhabitant is the eldest child in her family, with only a younger brother who is currently in High School. Viraragavan shared the difficulty and excitement of growing up in a small village and how adhering to the fixed bus times prevented her from partaking in extra-mural activities. Nevertheless, this did not hamper Viraragavan’s desire to study.

“I chose the University of Zululand because it was close to home and had heard of great students who graduated with good results, especially relatives who



Amsha Viraragavan

previously graduated from the University” she says.

The 1st year MSc (Biochemistry) student has been seconded to the MRC’s Diabetes Discovery Platform under the MRC’s Research Strengthening and Capacity Development for selected South African Universities Programme. Viraragavan’s academic results and passion to further her career resulted in her selection, which left her feeling ‘overjoyed and filled with excitement’.

Viraragavan’s research entails testing rooibos extracts for its effectiveness in skeletal muscle cells, murine fibroblasts (adipocytes) and human liver cells.

Viraragavan strives for the availability and usage of natural (home made) medicine that possess minimal to no side effects. Furthermore, she asserts that she will be back at UNIZULU to share her expertise with future



Nokulunga Hlengwa

scientists if her research is accepted.

Meanwhile Hlengwa is a post-graduate student born in Durban and raised by her father in Mobeni Heights following her mother’s passing in 2005. Hlengwa studied at A.J Mwelase Senior Secondary in Lamontville before registering at the University of Zululand for BSc Biochemistry and Microbiology. She chose UNIZULU due to the rural location of the institution as she claims she has never been a fan of the city life.

Hlengwa’s fascination with science led her into pursuing an Honours degree in Microbiology. Her diligence led the Head of Department within the Biochemistry and Microbiology department to recommend her for the programme. Hlengwa attained 1st place at the UNIZULU’s post-graduate symposium and also at the Annual Microbiology SASM

at the University of KwaZulu-Natal – PMB campus. “I was very excited and I felt blessed because I wouldn’t be where I am today if it wasn’t for God and the support I got from my family” she said.

“I would love to leave a footprint in the world by making a contribution through science by discovering a cure for one of the diseases that burden Africa”.

A day in Hlengwa’s shoes entails monitoring and feeding her cells, conducting assays which can take up to six hours, as well as interpreting the results, which can consume an additional two hours depending on the amount of data.

Hlengwa admits that there are challenges that are encountered within research, however, she believes that one should seize every opportunity so as to live with no regrets. She plans to further her studies to a PhD.

Choir making waves all the way to the USA

SPHAMANDLA GUMEDE

The accomplished University of Zululand (UNIZULU) Choir is getting ready to take on the world, with big plans which include a launch of a CD next year. The choir is also flying the UNIZULU flag high with 15 of its members currently touring the United States of America.

The 20-day tour will see the choir touring various American states.

UNIZULU Choirmaster Bhekani Buthelezi said the tour came about as a result of the University of Zululand's partnership with Appalachian State University based in North Carolina.

Only a few members of the choir could be selected for the trip. Buthelezi said members were selected based on their singing, ability, seniority in the choir and the way they conduct themselves.

"We had to take into consideration the way that members carry themselves because we do not want to take people who are going to misrepresent the university".

The choir departed for the US on September 3, and started by performing three concerts in collaboration with Appalachian State University. Buthelezi said the UNIZULU choir would also get a chance to work with lecturers who have worked with the likes of Hugh Masekela, Abdullah Ibrahim amongst others.



The UNIZULU Choir jetted off to the USA on September 3 for a tour that will see them even performing at the White House. Choirmaster Bhekani Buthelezi (front row middle) and members of the choir are pictured in the file photo with some of the many trophies that the choir has scooped over the years

“What keeps the quality is that we practice six days a week and we have many performances which keeps the choir very strong.”

“We will also get a chance to see the studio in which the likes of Celine Dion and Westlife have recorded in”.

After that the choir will tour other parts of the US, including Chicago and Washington DC, with renowned producer Miles Comiskey.

The tour will see the choir giving workshops on South Africa music. Buthelezi said the members of the choir were so excited with the trip.

Njabulo Nxumalo, a Master's student in Development

Studies, said he was overjoyed at the opportunity especially as it will be his first time being outside of the country.

Speaking of future plans Buthelezi said the CD launch is on top of the list adding that the album was an amazing one “consisting of famous songs we always perform everyone will love it”. The launch is expected next year.

He also revealed that the choir was planning big shows such as “UNIZULU Has Got Talent” where students are

given a platform to showcase their talent in genres such as Jazz, Gospel, Hip Hop and RnB. Top producers are invited to be part of the show.

“We also want to help all students who wants to enter for SA Idols, Clash of the choirs, I want to sing Gospel and other competitions. We encourage all interested students to come, we will help them for free,” Buthelezi said.

But what is the recipe for the choir's success? “What keeps quality is that we practice six days a week and we have many performances which keeps the choir very strong, we also have a lot of physical training where we run to keep physical strength and team building exercises,” he said.

Top Achievers share tips for the exams

SIYABONGA MYENI

Although Spring is gradually raising South African temperatures, there is perhaps another season which has some students biting their nails while only a selected few remain at ease.

Students are spending more time in churches, community centres, libraries and less time clubbing with friends. It is almost that 'make-or-break' time of the year again, the final academic chapter: the upcoming exams.

UNIZULU #Tag spoke to some of the top academic achievers to find out exactly how they beat the exam blues and the stress that comes with it.

While many believe in locking themselves up in their rooms and studying throughout the night, this approach does not seem to work for Botho Mofokeng who is one of the top achievers from the Faculty of Arts. "During exams never force yourself to study when you are tired", says the 23-year-old Mofokeng.

She added that staying up all night before the exam never works. "It's not about how many hours you studied, it is about how effectively you study when you study. Study smart not hard."

Mofokeng is currently studying for her board exam that will enable her to register with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA). She is also offering voluntary services at Windsor Clinic.

"It's not about how many hours you studied, it is about how effectively you study when you study. Study smart not hard."

Nomfundo Khanyile (24), one of the top achievers from the Faculty of Commerce, Administration and Law (FCAL), is one who studies alone most of the time. However, when exams are around the corner, she finds it wise to meet with a small group of other students to exchange ideas as this gives her an indication of how well she understands her academic content.

"I would say the most important aspect of the exam preparation has to be time-management. I think a person's ability to manage their time accordingly and appropriately remains at the centre of ensuring excellence in every aspect of life," she said in an interview.

Khanyile sheds light on the importance of taking adequate breaks in between study sessions. "I really ensure that I give myself breaks in between each study session by doing what I love for at least an hour and a half (whether it is listening to music, watching a TV series or conversing with a friend)".

Refreshments such as water and fruits play a vital role in Khanyile's study session, however, she believes "the underlying and most important thing to do is to have a true and undeniable belief

in yourself". Furthermore, Khanyile believes one should not forget to pray as "all things work together for good to them that love God," she says quoting Romans 8 v 28. She is currently pursuing an honours degree in Economics at UNIZULU.

Meanwhile Thembisile Khoza (34) one of the top academic achievers from the Faculty of Education believes students should set clear study

goals while also maintaining a flexible study plan. Using examination papers which have been set for the previous years, forming study groups, conducting self-assessments and explaining academic content to others is a great way of learning and understanding school work, she said.

"Success begins with a dream and a vision and then one strives to actualize them by hard work," said the top achiever.

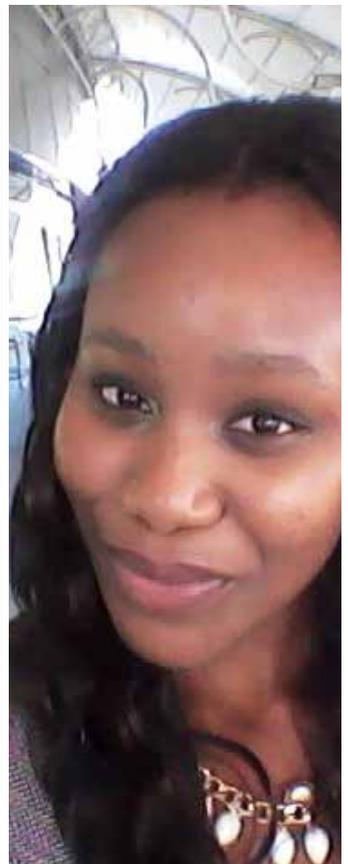
She is now passing her knowledge and wisdom to pupils at Khul'unolwazi Primary School where she teaches English and Life Skills.



Thembisile Khoza



Botho Mofokeng



Nomfundo Khanyile

City Campus students kicking out stereotypes in sport

ZAMANTULI MBHELE
GUGULETHU KWAPUNA

If you think netball is exclusively for women and soccer is only for men, then you have not met two students from the Richards Bay Campus who will have you convinced otherwise.

Both students, Isabel Mchunu and Muzwandile Mthembu, have defied gender stereotypes in sport by being actively involved in sporting codes deemed to be the domain of the opposite sex.

Mchunu is not only an accomplished soccer player but is also the administrator of the sport at the city campus. Meanwhile Mthembu is the coach of the campus' netball team and also an active player of male netball.

While largely considered to be women's sport netball has taken Mthembu places as he has recently returned from representing his province at the national championships held in Gauteng.

The 20-year-old Mthembu says he is extremely proud to be associated with male netball despite it being scoffed at by some. He was the only player from the University to be drafted into the KZN B2 team which competed at the national championships in July. When he is not playing for the provincial team, he plays for the Richards Bay based Starlings Netball Team, which comprises both male and female players. He also plays for the Iziphonzone Netball Club, a male netball team based in Esikhawini. "I never get teased for playing



Isabel Mchunu

netball because not many people know I play it but it's no secret either," he said laughing.

He said he was introduced to netball by Xolani Ngwenya at the age of 13. That was back in 2008 and he has never looked back. He views netball as an enjoyable and easy game and is grateful that it has given him a chance to travel around the province and the country.

He is determined to change perceptions about the sport and would also love to see a male netball team being established at the University. "By playing netball which is perceived as a women's sport, I wanted to be different and break the barriers. I wanted to show that men can be flexible and adapt just like women can," explained Muziwandile.

Meanwhile "Issah" as Isabel is popularly known, has been busy organising soccer tournaments and running the soccer league at the Richards Bay campus. In fact when she came to study at UNIZULU three years ago there was no



Muzwandile Mthembu in action for his netball team

sporting society at the Richards Bay campus. The 25-year-old, third year sport and exercise technology student said she had to act to ensure that there were sporting societies and competitive games at the city campus.

"Back then we had to travel to the main campus for sports. That did not seem right. I then approached some fellow students. I said to them: 'we have to do something to address this because as people studying sport and exercise technology we also need the practical side of things,'" Issah explained.

Eventually she was able to convince some of the students and with the help of the Sports Department they were able to hold AGMs and to launch the soccer, netball, rugby and athletics societies at the city campus.

That was back in 2014 and Issah was elected the chairperson of the football society in that year. Since then she has sought to take the sport to greater heights at the Richards Bay campus. She has achieved this

by establishing the campus league which sees teams made up of students from the various departments playing against each other. For her efforts Issah has won accolades both for academic achievement and her role in sport.

This month the Richards Bay Campus is hosting two soccer tournaments, one which will see top teams from the two campuses being pitted against each other. Bragging rights will be at stake when the top four teams from the Main Campus at KwaDlangezwa take on the top four teams from the city campus league later this month.

Mchunu said while she continues to play for the UNIZULU ladies' soccer team her passion had shifted to refereeing and is currently taking some courses. "One has to grow somehow. I have been a player and I feel that I need to explore the other side of the game".

There is really no stopping the two students even the snide comments about their chosen sporting codes would not deter them.

Changing Lives Through Acts Of Kindness

ANELE BHENGU

Members of Global Business Roundtable (GBR) UNIZULU are changing lives through acts of kindness which range from donating clothes to the needy, feeding the poor through food gardens to even building a library for a needy school.

All these form part of the newly-formed organisation's broader goal of educating and enriching individuals while ensuring they grow holistically.

When asked what they get in return for their hard work and dedication, Phelo Mdingi, the deputy chairperson of GBR UNIZULU, cheerfully replied, that they get to interact and network with people who could be their future employers. "But most importantly, we get to sleep well at night knowing we have influenced lives for the better".

In carrying out their objectives, these GBR UNIZULU members reached out to two local primary schools, Vulindlela and Khandisa, and started food gardening projects. According to Mdingi, the organisation's most important and rewarding task so far has been educating pupils at these schools about the real value of soil. "We found that in the not so distant past gardening was used as punishment, especially in some schools. That removed the love for gardening so we wanted to bring it back and make gardening exciting," Mdingi explained. He added: "We also wanted to remind the local community that

gardening is still the way to go. It saves money and it feeds". GBR UNIZULU is now planning to launch a community gardening project that would generate profits which would in turn be used in community upliftment. GBR is an international non-profit religious organisation that is a platform for networking and mentorship.

The UNIZULU chapter of GBR was established last year but is yet to be registered as a student society on campus. Mdingi said because of their passion they had decided to start working on their projects while awaiting their official launch. Their work has traversed local boundaries as they have worked with schools in Durban and Johannesburg.

Despite their shortage of manpower, these passionate students have managed to accomplish many of the community outreach tasks they had set themselves. One of the major projects still underway is that of starting a library at a local school, Vulindlela

During their visit to the school, GBR UNIZULU noticed that there was no library. The organisation sprang into action and is now in the process of setting up the library for the school. "It's a short-term goal and we are hoping to achieve this goal by the end of the year," Mdingi indicated. "Right now we are in the process of getting the books and setting up the furniture".

As part of the mission to help individuals grow holistically,



Members of GBR UNIZULU hard at work in a food garden at one of the local schools

the team also undertakes spiritual activities. "We do spiritual counselling, Bible studies and motivational speaking," he explained. This dedicated team also does charity work. They have donated jerseys to learners at Vulindlela. After seeing some learners there without shoes and some with different coloured shoes, the GBR UNIZULU team felt compassion for the learners. "We are looking into donating footwear to the learners". To get funding, GBR UNIZULU approaches various potential sponsors but most of the time members of the organisation find themselves having to dig deep into their pockets so as to be able to buy tools and make their tasks possible.

Buoyed by having accomplished seven tasks since the establishment of the UNIZULU chapter, the organisation still has some interesting projects in the pipeline. One of the projects is a plan to set up science labs in schools while also tackling whoonga drug addiction is another long-term goal. "It (whoonga) seems to play a major role in young people dropping out of school and getting involved in crime", Mdingi explained.

The team also wants to cultivate the love for science in young people. "We don't have many people pursuing science to higher levels like MSc and PhD, so we want to bring that love for science back".

#lifeOnCampus



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#tag 8

Making peace with the past, surging ahead to the future

Growing up, life was bitter and painful most of the time but that didn't make me lose hope. Rather I took it as an opportunity to start a new journey in life, not to feel sorry for myself but to be tougher. As they say when life throws you lemons, make sweet lemonade, writes LIVINGSTON NKOSINATHI NKOSI

The 17th of October 2005 was supposed to be the happiest day of my life. It was supposed to be a celebration of my 13th birthday, but unfortunately it turned out to be a tragic day, one that I would remember as perhaps the saddest day of my existence because, that was exactly the day I lost my father.

Two years later I lost my two brothers. This meant at that early age I became the “man of the house”. But there was no one to teach me about what it takes to be a real man, so I learnt things as I went along. Being “the man of the house” meant I had to provide for my mother and four sisters. The youngest of my sisters is epileptic and is disabled: unable to either talk or walk. Just looking at her innocent face was reason enough for me to do all I could for my family.

This even meant dropping out from school at the age of 14 to find any job. Yet throughout all this time I had a passion of going to University.

Four months after dropping out I went back to school to work towards my University dream. I continued working

on weekends so as to put food on the table and to pay my school fees.

I saw God's mercy in the smallest of things: I became a leader of the learners' representative council at high school, I got first prize in science expo projects, I did drama and debate but on top of it all I was able to finish my matric timeously, and my performance on my studies ensured I gained entry into the University. I can list more triumphs, more successes, more things that I attempted and achieved.

At UNIZULU I became a leader for the development studies society, a house committee member, I'm a tutor for students, I got 1st Prince position in Miss & Mr UNIZULU 2014 pageant, I

am a post graduate student in development studies. My life had ups and downs but I had to fight hard, I was able to make it through the difficulties by focusing on my dream and never losing focus.

Celebrating my birthday is still a bit uneasy but I have accepted it, because it is that fateful day 10 years ago which forced me to trade my innocence for understanding.

I have had to accept the loss of the only male figures in my life, no matter how hard it has been. Attending counselling sessions and taking part in extramural activities helped to ease the pain somehow but it was the inner resolve that was even more important in my journey to healing.



Livingston Nkosinathi Nkosi

I kept telling myself that my loss was probably preparing me for the new life ahead and shaping me into a better person. Would I have achieved so much and even graduated had I not gone through what I have been through? Would I have been a manager at the age of 17? Something is telling me maybe not.

Top achiever determined to make family proud

LINDOKUHLE NZAMA

Sphamandla “Khabazela” Mkhize, one of the top achieving students at the Richards Bay campus says his determination to make his family proud has been one of the major factors propelling him to success.

Mkhize is a second year Logistics Management student who recently got distinctions in all his modules (Purchasing Management, Logistics 2A, Financial Management, and Research Method)

He believes that God is behind his achievement while he also draws inspiration and encouragement from his

sister and the programme co-coordinator and lecturer Kofi Ampofo-Twumasi

Mkhize's sister has played a crucial role in him being able to further his studies post matric. Mkhize's father was killed in 1997 while his mother passed away in 2001 after falling ill. He was then left in the care of his older sister. He describes himself as a hard-working individual, who believes that education is the key to success.

“I strongly believe that education is of vital importance to us as human beings. It allows us to solve practical problems, to empower people

from poor backgrounds and also to be competitive against other countries,” he said. He encouraged fellow students never to give up despite the challenges they might face..



“Khabazela” is a top Logistics management student at the University of Zululand (Richards Bay campus).

From using soap as toothpaste to playing in the big league

Twenty-six year old Nonhlanhla Mnisi, an alumnus of UNIZULU, has accomplished a lot in her short life. Not only has she published five books in the past five years, she is working on launching the sixth one. She has a busy professional life which sees her doing TV and radio production work, running her own PR company, engaging in public speaking amongst other things. She certainly makes it all look easy but as she explains in her second book: an autobiography it was not all smooth sailing for Nonhlanhla who lost her father before she was born and her mother at the age of 12. In the excerpt from the book *Shades of My Brutality*, Nonhlanhla tells of her life at UNIZULU

“As the lectures began, I found myself wearing the same thing time and time again. I had no appliances – stove, kettle, iron – and due to the high number of learners, there were three of us in a room big enough for two people...something we called “third roomza”, meaning a third room-mate. One room-mate came in with a paraffin stove, and you can imagine the smell of the paraffin and how it gets on to your clothes. My one and only blanket reeked of paraffin, which meant I had to sniff it up as I headed to dreamland. But, I had no stove so would therefore benefit from the heat.

One thing I did when I first got to varsity was to find my target niche, which I referred to as “chapel list” simply because they were people you’d always find in the main campus chapel. I was a fan of cereal and



managed to buy a box of Kellogg’s Corn Flakes and Cremora milk, making sure I could borrow a kettle to get boiled water. As time went on I found myself using Sunlight soap as toothpaste and toilet paper wrapped around paper would be my sanitary pad. Things got so hard that I eventually found myself with absolutely nothing. I tried knocking on all doors which I thought might be able to offer financial help...but I was out of luck.

What surprised me was how I’d still take out my last few cents and give it away to a new friend who I believed had a greater need than myself... yet in actual fact we were both equally in need. Sometimes I would give money to strangers who would approach me for help. To this day I don’t understand why others thought I had money to offer, when I actually needed the very same money myself.

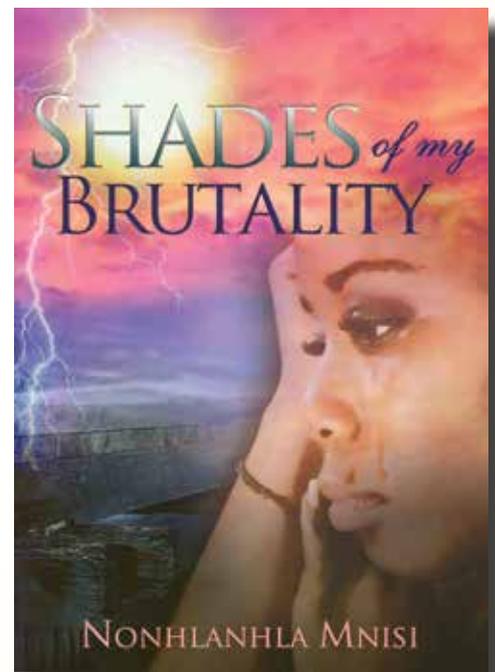
It was on a Friday evening right after testimonies that the chairperson of the Student Christian Fellowship (SCF) called me to come on

to the stage. I had never been so shy in my life. Ironically, I was wearing my killer creamy white skirt and my number “8” T-shirt. As I ascended the podium, the man of God was already in spirit requesting for people to bring forth an offering just for me. The chapel was packed and as I stood there in front with tears rolling down my cheeks, I could not believe what was happening. It seemed like a

movie, a fantasy which was just too good to be true. I still have memories of those who walked up to the stage to hug and comfort me, realising this was an uncomfortable position for me to be in. I will never forget the lady who asked me to try on her shoes...which she then gave to me right there and then. That night I cried like someone had died. I remember how the Holy Spirit then brought it to my attention that I would continue to be a giver, and that I didn’t need treasures to give.

The example that stayed with me to this day was of a lady who gave me a box of opened Weet-bix – the spirit emphasised that this gesture came out of love and how that person could’ve simply folded their hands and said they didn’t have anything to give. But instead she looked around her room and took her last cereal box as her offering. This proves that we do have a lot of things to offer apart from money.

I found myself using Sunlight soap as toothpaste and toilet paper wrapped around paper would be my sanitary pad.



Shades of My brutality is an autobiography which details Nonhlanhla Mnisi’s tough childhood. In the book she talks about her life as a student at UNIZULU.

Meet the #Tag writers

When The UNIZULU #Tag magazine first came out, earlier this year we said this was to be a publication for and by the students of UNIZULU. To achieve this dream we appealed to our students to join the #Tag family as writers. Today we introduce those students who form the core of our team. Here is a bit about who they are and what they are about.

Spha Gumede



Spha is a postgraduate student who, since its inception, has been one of the brains behind UNIZULU #Tag.

He is also an avid athlete who “loves sport more than anything else”.

But if he is not on the track you will find him reading. “I have got a passion for words and to improve my vocabulary I try to read as much as I can so as to learn new words. The target I have set for myself is to learn at least 10 new words everyday”.

Gruffy, as he is popularly known around campus is an opinionated man and this has led to him becoming one of the regular callers on a radio talkshow. Whenever he finds time you will find him giving motivational talks or enjoying a good laugh with friends.

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Nobuhle Mngadi



Nobuhle is a second year Public Relations student who describes herself as a “fairly complex introvert” who simply loves to edit and document parts of her life through pictures on instagram and through writing her daily struggles, desires, irks and joys on Twitter. “I love words. I love how they can make one feel the intended meaning and create revolutions.

I’m so proud and honoured to be one of the instruments that the students can use to voice out their opinions and show off their achievements and talents.

I hope that this magazine will be encouraging to the readers to put in work and effort at always beating the odds and soldiering on. #newsforusbyus,” she said.

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Zamantuli Mbele



Zamantuli is a second year Public Relations Management student who enjoys mostly listening to music and writing poems.

She lists the great William Shakespeare as one of her favourite authors saying “my inspiration derives from his work”.

She dreams of one day being a journalist and penning her own book. “Writing for UNIZULU #Tag means I can tell stories that are powerful, have meaning and promote student excellence.

It also means profiling success over circumstance and people who opted to become victors rather than being victims whilst reaching academic success,” she said.

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Siyabonga Myeni



Siyabonga is a twenty-three year old post-graduate student who is in pursuit of an honours degree in Communication Science.

The part-time Journalism tutor is a student at the University of Zululand who currently resides in Esikhawini.

Although passive and perhaps introverted upon first glance, a closer look reveals the aspiring journalist as an outgoing, interactive individual who exhibits benevolence to the underprivileged.

Siyabonga possesses artistic interests as he finds great euphoria in music, poetry, visual art and talent exhibitions. Art is his prominent source of creativity and motivation.

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#OurTeam

Andile Lushozi



Andile is a second year APR Management student who believes that each day is a blessing and that each day provides an opportunity to learn something new.

“I’m very hard-working and I enjoy the little joys of life like music, social networks, fashion, sport, the list is endless,” Andile said.

Because Andile believes he is unique, he is determined to be the “key ingredient” in UNIZULU #Tag.

“I hope you like the style my pen dances!
#newsforusbyus”

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Anele Bhengu



Anele is a first-year Communication Science student who has a passion for journalism and news and one who thinks of herself as an “aspiring storyteller”. She dreams of one day practising journalism for a living, especially as a newsreader.

Anele enjoys reading, writing, interacting with various people and sharing her views via social networks. She also loves photography, languages and is fascinated by nature. Anele enjoys listening to soul music and is inspired by artists and artistic creations. “I am friendly, practical, with a sense of humour and an open mind”.

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Gugulethu Kwapuna



Gugulethu describes himself as someone who is a calm, innovative thinker and a person who loves to listen to other people”

He is also quiet and reserved person who enjoys reading and listening to music especially gospel music. “I am a person who believes in helping other people. I believe in hard work because it pays off in the end,” he said. Gugu, as he is popularly known, spends much time socializing with people on Facebook and Twitter.

“I’m honoured to be part of the #Tag team,” he said.

gugulethushadrack@gmail.com

Kayakazi Gqabe



Kayakazi is a third year Communication Science student who describes herself as a God fearing woman, a daughter, a sister and a friend to many.

She is an extrovert, who aspires to be a journalist.

“I see myself being a multimedia brand one day,” says Kayakazi who is also a part-time model.

Traveling, meeting new people and trying out different things are her interests. “I’m purposely driven and have zeal for life....I’m a go-getter and I’m never scared to stand out.”

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Lindokuhle Nzama

Lindokuhle is currently in his second year of study towards a Diploma in Public Relations Management. He spends most of his time reading newspapers, mostly about soccer as he is also an aspiring soccer star.

“I love being with friends because I’m a talkative person and who loves sharing jokes,” he said.

He believes being part of the UNIZULU #Tag team is an honour since it will help him obtain more experience in writing thus helping him further develop his writing skills.

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Poets bare their thoughts

SPHAMANDLA GUMEDE

Every Thursday afternoon after the hive of activity has died down on campus, a group of University of Zululand students converge behind lecture theatres for their weekly meeting.

No, this is not a secret society but a group of poets who come to battle it out and share their thoughts through poetry. The aptly titled poetry club, Barethoughts, has been growing in leaps and bounds on campus with members now planning to formalize the structure.

Perhaps one of the most recognizable faces in this group is Nqobile Mkhize who hails from Ncwadi outside Pietermaritzburg. Before even coming to UNIZULU she was already showing passion in poetry. "I started dabbling in poetry back when I was in Grade Nine. Back then I did

not have a name for it but I was just jotting down my thoughts," she said.

The love for poetry truly blossomed when she came to UNIZULU in 2013 and was introduced to Barethoughts by Sphe Thwala.

In the same year she became one of the best poets on campus, winning local competitions. Moreover she made it to the competition at Hillbrow in Johannesburg, where she competed against different poets from across the country. She continues to also perform at various formal events on campus where she leaves audiences eating out of her hand. Her dream is to perform at even bigger stages.

Asked about her inspiration, the poet says she writes about anything. "My poetry is a reflection of things that are happening in society at large. I



Members of poetry club Barethoughts photographed after one of their sessions. Nqobile is seated in the middle on the front row

tend to always try to challenge some structures of society". Mkhize adds that some of the time she also writes about her own life as a way of documenting her own history. It is not surprising that she is fascinated by history.

A self-confessed "daddy's girl" Mkhize says that her late father moulded her into the person she is and inculcated in her a love for her mother tongue, isiZulu. She was raised by her father, a school principal, after

her mother died when she was only 8 years old. The level three B. Ed student however says that Barethoughts is not where she and other members of the group would like it to be.

"It was once formal and we are trying to return it to that state. We have some very good poets here at UNIZULU but most of our talents are not nurtured enough because most people on campus are not as exposed to poetry the way we want them to be."

Ziningi gunning for the Indoni crown

SPHAMANDLA GUMEDE

Nineteen-year-old Ziningi Mthembu, a University of Zululand student, is confident of her chances of winning the Miss Indoni 2015 competition where she will be representing KwaZulu-Natal.

The competition will be held at the Durban ICC on October 10 where Mthembu will compete against 11 other hopefuls for the top prize which includes R100 000 bursary and a car.

"I will retain the crown for my province KwaZulu-Natal, I just have to" she said stressing that the reigning Miss Indoni hails from the same province.

Mthembu said the Miss Indoni competition was not just about beauty but more about culture and that is why it appealed to her.

But what prompted her to enter the competition in the first place? "I saw the posters on campus and I decided to join. We then went on a two week camp as KZN contestants where we were taught everything from making beads to brewing traditional beer. We were also taught about many of the Zulu cultural practices," she said.

Growing up in St Faith's near Port Shepstone, Mthembu has

always had a huge interest in Zulu culture. Even on campus she is part of the Ubhle Besizwe group, a group of maidens who took part in this year's Reed Dance Festival.

Being crowned Miss Indoni KZN, in July has brought fame to Mthembu who has been featured in various newspapers.

"My mother is super proud of me. She is busy making some of the traditional garments that I would wear at the finals at the ICC. I will not disappoint those who are supporting me," she said.

She is appealing to everyone



Ziningi Mthembu

to vote for her. To vote for Mthembu, SMS the words: "Indoni ZULU" to 48496

Watch her video on our Facebook page



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