

UNIZULU

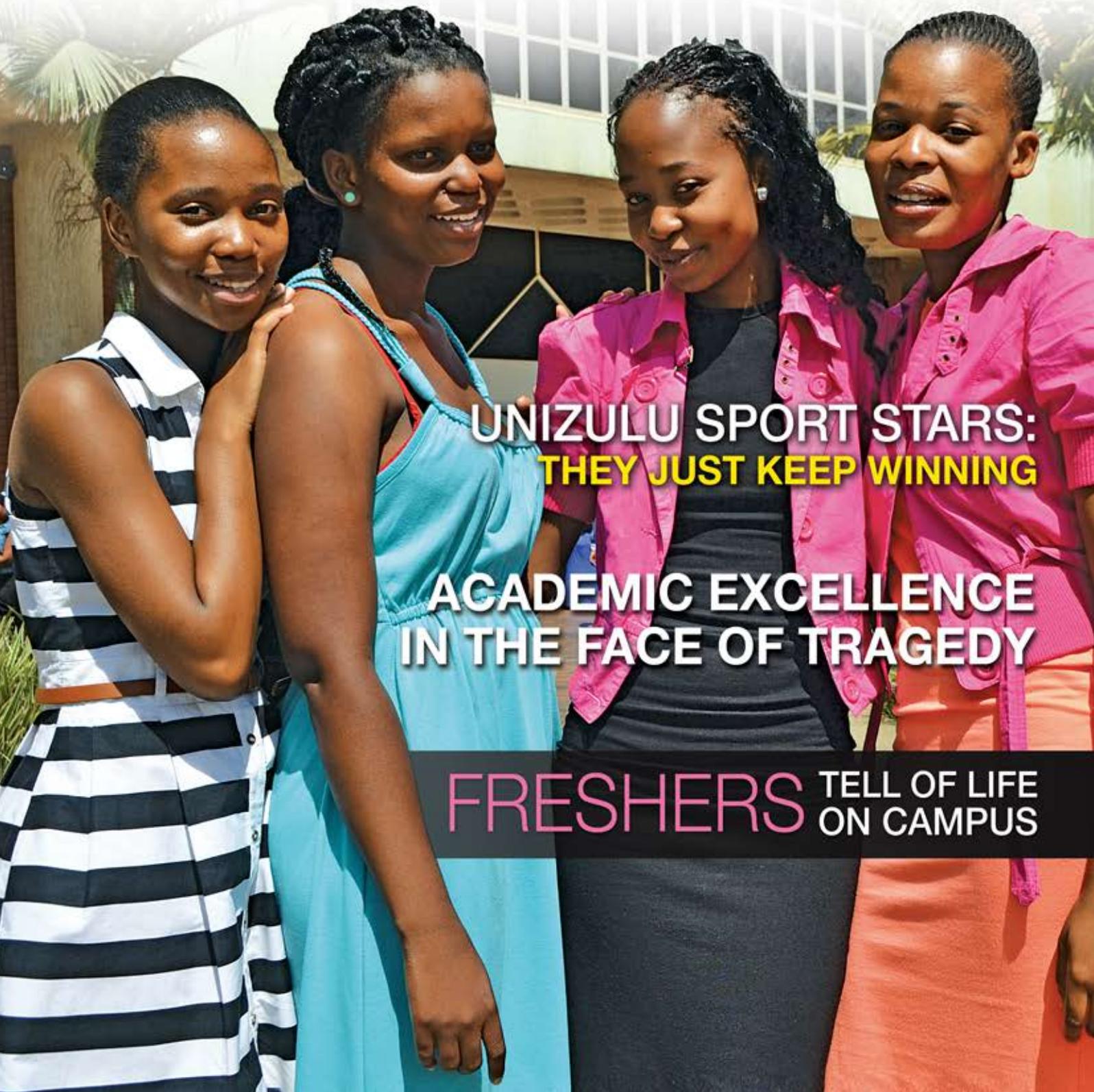
# #tag



UNIVERSITY OF  
ZULULAND

#News4UsByUs

Jan-March 2015



**UNIZULU SPORT STARS:  
THEY JUST KEEP WINNING**

**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE  
IN THE FACE OF TRAGEDY**

**FRESHERS** TELL OF LIFE  
ON CAMPUS

# #Editorial

It is my pleasure to introduce the first ever issue of UNIZULU #tag, the magazine for students at our University.

As the motto: “News For Us By Us” explicitly suggests this magazine is intended to be a platform through which stories of excellence by UNIZULU students are told by their peers on campus.

The Communications and Marketing Division (CMD) would only play the role of overseeing the entire production for we want this to be nothing but a platform to showcase student talent and achievements.

It is for this reason that we are also calling on students who have a passion for writing or journalism to contribute to our next issues.

This is more than a publication but a start of a revolution in the way that matters pertaining to UNIZULU students are reported on. This issue is celebrating the various unsung heroes of UNIZULU. These are students who have excelled against all odds and have managed to keep our flag flying high despite testing circumstances

We look forward to your feedback.

Look out for our next issue in June. Let us make UNIZULU trend for all the right reasons going forward.

Send any comments on this issue or suggestions to [MbanjwaS@unizulu.ac.za](mailto:MbanjwaS@unizulu.ac.za)

## Editorial Team

**Normah Zondo (executive editor),  
Bhekani Dlamini, Siphamandla Gumede,  
Bheki Mbanjwa, Lydia Meyer and Mthobisi  
Makhathini**

### How the name came about

Last month the University of Zululand called on students to make suggestions as to what this magazine would be called. Dozens of entries were received from students and after a careful deliberation the team at Communications and Marketing settled on the name UNIZULU#tag. It was not an easy decision given the fact that we received a lot of interesting suggestions. However we felt that UNIZULU #tag gave the magazine the feel and the look that would resonate with the student community. We however thank all the students who participated in this competition and ask that you please continue sending us your suggestions on the stories we need to cover. See page 5



# UNIZULU #tag



#News4UsByUs

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## Excellence in the face of tragedy

SPHAMANDLA GUMEDE

**W**hile doing her final year in

undergraduate studies, UNIZULU honours student Ntokozo Dladla suffered what was probably the most traumatic experience of her life: losing her two brothers in a fatal car accident in 2013.

This however did not stop her from working hard and being one of the top achievers at the University that year. Having taken a gap year in 2014 she is now back on campus doing her honours. *UNIZULU #tag* caught up with her last month to find out the secrets to her success.

Dladla believes she wouldn't have made it this far if God was not by her side. She said this after graduating in B.A Communication Science and History with flying colours. She is one of UNIZULU's top achievers honoured by the University last year; an achievement which she admits says was not an easy one. She told *UNIZULU #tag* that her final year was a bumpy ride.

"I will never forget that year, I lost my two brothers in a car accident and life was more than just hard. They were more than just family, they were my friends as well, we were like twins, their passing-on left a void in my heart, but life goes on I had to cope with it and live in the present," explained Dladla.

She thanked lecturers from the departments of Communication Science and History for being supportive.

"I had to rush home after the accident and leave the school work behind but at the back of my mind I knew that lectures were very important when it comes to me fulfilling my goal of graduating in record time in keeping with the promise I had made to my brothers before they passed-on"

"I came back and dedicated most of my time in my books wanting to realise my goal." She is now determined to finish her honours in record time.

She also thanked the University for the award she received saying such accolades encourage students to excel academically. Dladla also encouraged other students to dedicate most of their time to their studies more than anything else.



*Despite personal loss, Ntokozo Dladla was last year honoured as one of the top achievers at UNIZULU*



*First Year students (L-R) Lethukuthula Ngobese, Sithembile Ndlazi, Fanisile Ngwenya, Zodwa Dlamini and Nelly Mpontshana*

**T**his year more than 4000 students registered for their first year of study at UNIZULU. **SPHAMANDLA GUMEDE**, hit the campus and spoke to a few of the new faces about why they chose UNIZULU and to find out about their ambitions and how they are adapting to life at the University. Here they are and what they had to say.

Lethukuthula Ngobese who hails from Madadeni outside Newcastle said she was inspired by her sister, also a UNIZULU student, to enrol for LLB at the University. "I look up to Public Protector Advocate Thuli Madonsela's discipline and her determination to always strive for the truth. She is very brave and strong as a woman," Ngobese said of her role model.

Another first year student Fanisile Ngwenya has always had love for teaching and is now half-way to realising her dream of being a teacher. She says that even while at school she would spend most of her time helping fellow classmates and pupils with their subjects. "So finally I decided to go for an education degree and I'm very happy to be a UNIZULU student."

Sithembile Ndlanzi chose to study law because she believes that a career in that profession would enable her to uplift her community. She also wants to educate society on how important it is to always be on the good side of the law. "University life is different from school but I'm learning a lot. One has received so much information since we started with lectures," Ndlanzi said.

Zodwa Dlamini, a B.Ed student is encouraged that she knows of many teachers who are now in the profession having studied at UNIZULU. However, choosing to pursue a career in education was more about passion for her than just ensuring she would have a job once she finishes studying. "As a result I did put it as my first choice when I applied through Central Applications Office (CAO)," the jovial Zodwa said.

At high school, Nelly Mpontshane was in a debate team and her goal has always been to become a unique teacher who will promote debating at school level since she believes it gives pupils a good platform to be independent thinkers. She is also loving being a UNIZULU student.

## “Vonk” to represent SA in South Korea

BHEKI MBANJWA

University of Zululand (UNIZULU) goalkeeper Lindokuhle “Vonk” Mthembu has been selected as part of the 20-men intervarsity national team to represent the country at the 2015 World Varsity Games.

The biennial Games to be held in Gwangju, South Korea from the 3rd to the 14th of July would see hundreds of players from Universities across the world competing in various sporting codes.

The 24-year-old Mthembu, who also plays for Thanda Royal Zulu Football Club which plays on the National First Division, said he was very excited about the selection and also revealed that he is the only player in the squad to come from a KwaZulu-Natal university.

He already boasts a promising future as last year he was honoured as University Sport SA (USSA) goalkeeper of the year following the intervarsity tournament, held in December, where UNIZULU soccer team were runners-up.

But the Development Studies student realises that soccer is a short career which is why he has decided to pursue an honours degree this year. Mthembu’s selection came after his participation in the national selection camp held in Bloemfontein at the weekend. The camp saw dozens of selected players from various South African universities try out for places in the senior and the Under 21 USSA national teams.



*Lindokuhle Mthembu will be flying the UNIZULU flag high at the World Varsity Games in South Korea*

## Boxer (May) weathering the storm

BHEKI MBANJWA

A chance encounter with a boxing coach is what started it all for Sibonelo Ndzimandze, the man whose boxing style and prowess in the ring has earned him the nickname of Mayweather.

“It was a Friday and I was walking down the street when a guy came to me and said I should try boxing. On the following Monday I went to the gym and I fell in love with the sport.”

That was exactly 13 years ago and now Ndzimandze boasts many accolades under his belt which include having represented his home country, Swaziland, in international boxing championships and also winning a few tournaments whether as part of the UNIZULU team or as part of the Swaziland national team.

These accolades include winning the first prize in the Swaziland national championships in 2013, winning the uThungulu district championships in the same year and also becoming champ in the University Sport South Africa (USSA) games last year.

He has now qualified for the World Varsity games this year while he is also looking forward to representing his country in the All Africa Games and the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. Ndzimandze who came to South Africa to seek a better future in 2012 believes he would keep the UNIZULU flag flying high at the World Varsity games this year having taken part in the same competition in Khazakstan in 2013.

“Because I have been there before I now know what to expect. I have learnt from my past mistakes and I have no doubt I will do well,” he said.

Ndzimandze has high praises for his coaches the first one being the man who approached him on the streets, Jabulani Mncina, and Mr Mngomezulu from UNIZULU whom he describes as a father figure.

The 69kg division boxer hopes that one day he can turn full professional in boxing but is also very careful not to neglect his studies being too aware of the fate that befalls most sportsmen once their careers are over. “I have to balance the two because I want to ensure that I would have something to fall back on. It is difficult though because as a boxer you have to ensure that you train at least twice a day and that can be a challenge when there are classes to attend” says the dual major student.



## UNIZULU flexes muscle at bodybuilding stage

SPHAMANDLA GUMEDE

For two consecutive years he has led the UNIZULU bodybuilding team to first place in the USSA games and Sibonelo Myeza is more than certain that even this year his team would secure position one.

Winning the trophy for the third consecutive time would mean the University would get to keep it forever. The Master's student who hails from Madadeni outside Newcastle is confident he will achieve that feat this year.

Speaking to Myeza, it is easy to see why he is so confident about succeeding. His very simple recipe for success, he says, is a mixture of discipline, determination and passion. Determination and discipline is evident when



*Sibonelo Myeza (front row, centre) shows off the trophy that the UNIZULU bodybuilding team won last year. His fellow team members show us why they are the best*

you look closely into his daily routine which includes a four and half hour intense workout which begins at 5am every day.

“I really love this sport and I always start my day at 5am. I take about two and half hours training then I go for

my studies. I'm aware that Master's studies require a lot of my time but sport relieves stress.

Even when I am at home during the holidays I try to do things that are labour intensive so I can keep fit,” he says.

For a sportsman he knows it is important to take care of his body which is why he is cautious of what he consumes. He says that athletes have to be very careful of how they conduct themselves. “It is important to surround yourself with like-minded people who understand exactly how you need to behave”

Nicknamed ‘The Legend’ by his peers, Myeza earned the epithet due to his exploits on the field of play.

Having mentored many of his teammates he is also quick to shower them with praises saying the tight competition amongst themselves in the team makes them very strong as a unit and as a result the entire team is very committed. Myeza said the sport requires passion, commitment and dedication.

## Kicking to the top

BHEKI MBANJWA

In September last year Qinis Gumedede was crowned the best fighter of the tournament at the intervarsity challenge.

Overall the UNIZULU karate team got position 5 at the USSA games, despite it being one of the smallest teams with less than 13 fighters.

It has been a longtime coming for Gumedede, the second year Nursing Science student, who says his love for karate started when he was only 17.

“I had tried basketball, swimming and athletics but it was karate that I fell in love with. And of course one grew up watching the likes of Jean Claude Van Damme who served as an inspiration” he says explaining his love for karate.

Despite some perceiving it as a violent sport, Gumedede believes karate has helped him remain disciplined, “It is a sport which teaches discipline. It is really not about fighting as when we describe karate we say it is a method of self defense using hands and feet. The first line of defence is always to walk away from trouble. So if I walk around and come across a rowdy and drunk person I just keep away from them”.

Gumedede has a brown belt and says that he hopes to earn a black belt before the end of this year.



# #FlashbackToTheVeryFirstTime



*He's probably one of the most recognisable faces at the KwaDlangezwa Campus, having been the face of the many marketing campaigns at the University. From enrolling as an undergraduate student in 2011, to now working as an intern at the Communications and Marketing Division, UNIZULU #tag reporter Sphamandla Gumede has come full circle. This is his story...*

The first day I stepped into the University of Zululand I saw multitudes of people, young adults moving up and down, this way and that. They seemed to know where they were going, and I- as I thought being the only stranger in the University knew not where I was going, who I was looking for and most importantly what was I to say to that individual should they be placed within my reach.

As I was still walking around the University premises my gaze was arrested by the tall beautiful buildings and "these must be the students residences" as I thought. Yes beautiful as they were but they could in no ways assist in my quest. Yet again I knew they were the harbinger of my success. Therefore I courageously went forward

and met a security guard from which the right directions were given. Eagerly I went straight away from the presence of the security guard, hoping to go faster than I dared. Alas! This is the University I could not run, at least not while people are watching or else I would draw to myself all the undue attention.

Ahead of me, just about 400 metres away stood a tall brown building surrounded by a countless number of students whose noise awoke the echoes of the walls. That tall building carried all that I needed. Upon entering the building, I went upstairs, floor after floor, higher and higher, right from the basement to the top, then again back to the basement. Finally I found the department of English, in which there was a very long queue. But hey! What was

I to do but join? I followed that queue until it was sundown but there was no luck. I queued like that for six consecutive days without any luck. Just when I was about to lose hope, success came my way with the assistance of the Most High on the seventh queuing day, and I was accepted. Fascinated by my patience and determination, Prof M Hooper (a member of staff) had called her attention towards me, "what course are you here for?" she asked. BA dual major, was my response. After looking at my matric certificate and personal documents for a while, she said 'I wonder why he had not received a firm offer'.

The Faculty of Arts finally gave me a firm offer. Wearing a smile I made my way to the King Bhekuzulu Hall to begin the registration process relieved. That is how my journey started.

*Dear first year student,*

*The university is to you what you want it to be, if you are polluted it becomes a boiling point of pollution because it is a place that unites different kinds of people who are with and without vision, all polluted and unpolluted individuals.*

*You've just stepped into the new world where everything is new, you have to make new friends, and even the life here is different from the life you lived before. Here you live your life independently; the choices you make are yours and yours alone, so bear that in mind.*

*It is helpful to focus on your studies at all times, that way you will finish your studies in due time, it's what I did it worked for me.*

*Above all else, put God first and pray continuously, he makes all things possible for all who trust in Him "but seek ye the kingdom of God first and his righteousness and all these things shall be added to you"*

**Matthew 6:33. KJV.**

## The Sky is not the limit for these singers

BHEKI MBANJWA

It may sound like an over-used cliché but it is true that in the case of Opera Quartet, The Sky, dynamites do come in small packages.

With skinny physique as a common feature among the four of them it is really hard to associate members of The Sky with the type of music made popular by the likes of Luciano Pavarotti and Placido Domingo, all well-built men.

But wait until they get to the stage and as soon as they start to belt the Opera tunes. That is when they get the respect they deserve.

“When people see us before a performance they do not think much of us. But it is only after they have heard and seen us perform that they take notice and come to us. It is all about the talent that you are given. It is no use having the body when you do not have the talent,” says Ludumo Honono, one of the four members of The Sky.

Honono, who is doing his fourth year in Bcom management information system, is the most outspoken of the four and is quick to point out that he works as the spokesman, manager and administrator for the group.

He is behind moves to formalise the group which he and three others started in 2012. All the other three founding members



*OPERA SINGERS (L-R) Siphon Ngcobo, Zazi Dladla and Ludumo Honono were photographed performing at one of the corporate functions recently. The fourth member of the group, Kwazi Buthelezi is not in the picture.*

have since left as some had to go and study in other provinces but the 23-year-old Honono with the help of the new members kept the dream alive.

At that time the group was formed, the members were just doing it as an extramural activity.

“From last year we started formalising the group and now we have reached a stage where we have proper financial records and a bank account. We are in the process of registering it as a company,” Ludumo told UNIZULU #tag.

Other members of the group

are 21-year-old Siphon Ngcobo, a Bcom Accounting 3<sup>rd</sup> year student, Zazi Dladla a 24-year-old B. Ed 4th year student and Kwazi Buthelezi who until last year was a Bcom Economics student at UNIZULU.

All of them met at the Prestigious Clermont Community Choir and the involvement in the choir has already led to Buthelezi and Honono performing in Paris and travelling to Dubai with the choir.

The Sky has performed at many functions hosted by UNIZULU, many corporate gigs and at private functions in as far as

Swaziland. With the gigs rolling in the group members realise they cannot be complacent and have started to rehearse at least two times a week.

Ngcobo says now the main target for the group is to see themselves hosting one big concert. Their aim is to reach for what is beyond the sky!, they say. With an attitude and the passion they display every time they are on stage it is no doubt they are destined for success.

For bookings, members of The Sky can be contacted on 073 6387 551/ 072 445 1920 or via email at [theskyclassics@gmail.com](mailto:theskyclassics@gmail.com)

## The student behind the name

BHEKI MBANJWA

Twenty-one-year-old Nomvula Ngcobo is the winner of the “Name the Magazine competition”. The fourth year B.Ed student was over the moon when the news was broken to her saying: “I’m feeling happy.

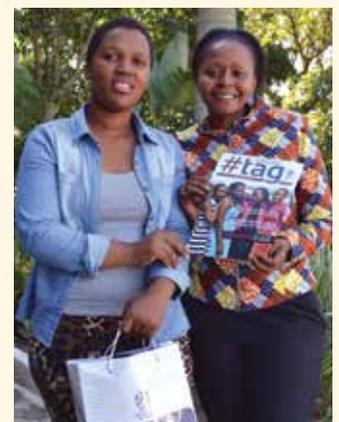
I feel like I am the luckiest person as I know that I have left a mark at this University and feel that my voice would be heard”.

Ngcobo who hails from Elandskop in Pietermaritzburg said she hopes that the magazine would inspire fellow students to strive for excellence. “I hope that by showcasing the excellence of others it would inspire other students to try and do well in their studies, sports and the arts”

Asked how she came with the name she said it had been inspired by her use of social media and a TV show.

“For example if you want to highlight something or put emphasis on something in social media you use a hashtag. I felt that such a name was relevant for this magazine which seeks to highlight the good being done by the students at our University”.

As a token of appreciation Ngcobo received a hamper from CMD.



*Nomvula Ngcobo is pictured with CMD Director Normah Zondo.*

## **CONTACT US**

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