

# #tag

April - June 2018

NEWS FOR US, BY US

Twining in  
Academia

Grad In Pictures

One-on-one with  
Prolific PhD  
Graduate

Top Achievers:  
How they Made It

Graduation Issue

# # EDITOR'S NOTE

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April-June 2018

Many will agree that one of the greatest periods in the calendar of an institution of higher learning is graduation season. This is a joyous time characterised by the resounding ululations of parents as their children descend the graduation stage and the cheers of the audience as graduates mark their victory with a dance. It is in such moments that the financial sacrifices of parents and the time graduates invested in their studies finally pay off. To some families, witnessing a family member graduate symbolises an end to poverty while to some it serves as inspiration to the younger generation.

During these periods also, the fundamental role higher education institutions play in shaping future leaders and altering the destinies of families is reinforced. The University of Zululand takes pleasure in the fact that it has once again - in the 2018 UNIZULU Graduations- produced a class of graduates with the potential to become worthy contributors to our society. #tag congratulates the graduates of 2018 and wishes them well in their journey ahead. We trust that they will be great ambassadors of this great institution. Wise men say it is not a crime to state the obvious so we would like to formally present to you the Graduation Issue. Jam-packed with inspirational content, this issue features stories of top students from all our faculties (pages 4 to 7), words of wisdom from a few of the guest speakers during the recent graduation period (page 13) and our much-loved collage (pages 8 and 9), among other exciting stories.

Remember to inform us of any interesting student related stories you may have knowledge of. You may either visit the Communications and Marketing Division, Admin Building, ground floor or email us at [Hlefanen@unizulu.ac.za](mailto:Hlefanen@unizulu.ac.za) or [GumedeS@unizulu.ac.za](mailto:GumedeS@unizulu.ac.za)

Happy reading.

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Sphamandla Gumede and Samkele Sokhela



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# VOX POPS

## What makes you a proud UNIZULU graduate?



“UNIZULU is an institution that is full of vibrant and enthusiastic people, who are diverse in culture but, at the same time, united in purpose and goal. This makes me so proud to be a product of such a university. I also like how accommodative the University is. I will even make sure that my offspring comes to this university too.”

**- Sphelele Jiyane**  
*Master of Arts*



“The level of education at UNIZULU is the first thing that makes me a proud graduate of the institution. The lecturers are excellent; they train you to work hard for your degree. The institution also has a friendly environment and the residences are well organised for students to study. I’m thankful for everything that the University has done for me. I’m a proud UNIZULU graduate also because the University offers a wide range of extracurricular activities.”

**- Sandile Ngema**  
*Bachelor of Arts Honours*



“I am a proud UNIZULU graduate because of the skills I acquired through studying at this institution. The lecturers imparted a wealth of knowledge to us in order to equip us for the field of education. Mine is to now make sure that I make use of these skills. I’m also proud to be associated with an institution that caters for everyone. I came here in need of funding and accommodation and staff helped us resolve those issues on time. You know, you find that in some universities students drop out because of financial issues but UNIZULU makes sure that they fight for you as a student.”

**- Xolani France Xulu**  
*Bachelor of Education*



“I am a proud UNIZULU graduate because I am confident that I have gained adequate knowledge about my field and I am fit for the workplace. I have also gained interpersonal skills from UNIZULU. I leave the University happy and with pride because I am a product of lecturers like Dr Maxwell Shamase and Gift Marovatsanga, who not only lecture you, but inspire you to aim high as well.”

**- Luyanda Ngcobo**  
*Bachelor of Arts*



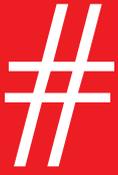
“I’m proud to be a UNIZULU graduate because the University is so rich in culture. I will forever cherish the happy moments I shared with my friends on campus as it was in those moments that my character was shaped. Because of this institution, I have come to learn to always have a positive outlook on life.”

**- Nonkululeko Mbokazi**  
*Bachelor of Arts*



“I’m proud to be a graduate of UNIZULU because of the cultural diversity that the University has. This is an institution that makes one feel at home, welcomed and it provides a good environment to study and prosper.”

**- Lisa Marais**  
*Bachelor of Laws*



# Top Education Graduate IN AWE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

Khanyisile Majola (24) has been a top achiever her entire schooling life yet she couldn't fathom how she managed to top all her peers in the Faculty of Education.

"I absolutely cannot believe it," the Ulundi-born graduate said cheerfully. "I'm asking myself 'why me?'. I mean, I was among thousands of students in my faculty yet I came up top. It's unbelievable," she said.

Majola graduated with a Bachelor of Education: Intermediate and Senior Phase degree during the 2018 UNIZULU Graduations. She is amongst five graduates in her Faculty whose outstanding academic performance was considered and approved by the UNIZULU SENEX for the 2018 UNIZULU Graduation Ceremonies. As a token of appreciation from the office of the Vice-Chancellor, Majola, together with the other four top graduates, received a brand new laptop which was specially handed over to her by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Xoliswa Mtose on the day of her graduation.

For the graduate, this achievement could not have been possible without the unwavering support of her father, family, lecturers and one high school teacher. "All the motivation, support and love from my family and community made me believe in the common saying that 'it takes a village to raise a child'. I am grateful to Mr Talasi, Dr Masoalane, Mr Ngwenya, Dr Pillay and many of my other lecturers for teaching me independence and reinforcing the notion of effort yielding success," Majola said, also acknowledging the role played by Sindi Nene, the high school teacher



***Pictured: Khanyisile Majola (middle) as she receives a brand new laptop from UNIZULU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Xoliswa Mtose (left), for her sterling performance in her academic programme and the Faculty of Education as a whole. Also pictured is Professor Mncedisi Maphalala, the Dean of the Faculty of Education.***

who ignited her love for Physical Science.

In Majola, the field of education has truly gained a passionate professional to whom teaching comes naturally. The young woman said she realised her calling while she was still in high school, where she was always surrounded by her peers who required tutoring in Mathematics and Physical Science. Majola said she is ecstatic as she is

now imparting her knowledge to grade 12 Physical Science learners at Phumanyova High School in Nongoma, where she is currently employed.

Of her future plans, the graduate said, "I believe there is still much more out there for me. This is just the beginning." She added that obtaining higher qualifications is definitely in the pipeline.

- Naledi Hlefane

# Hard work Earned

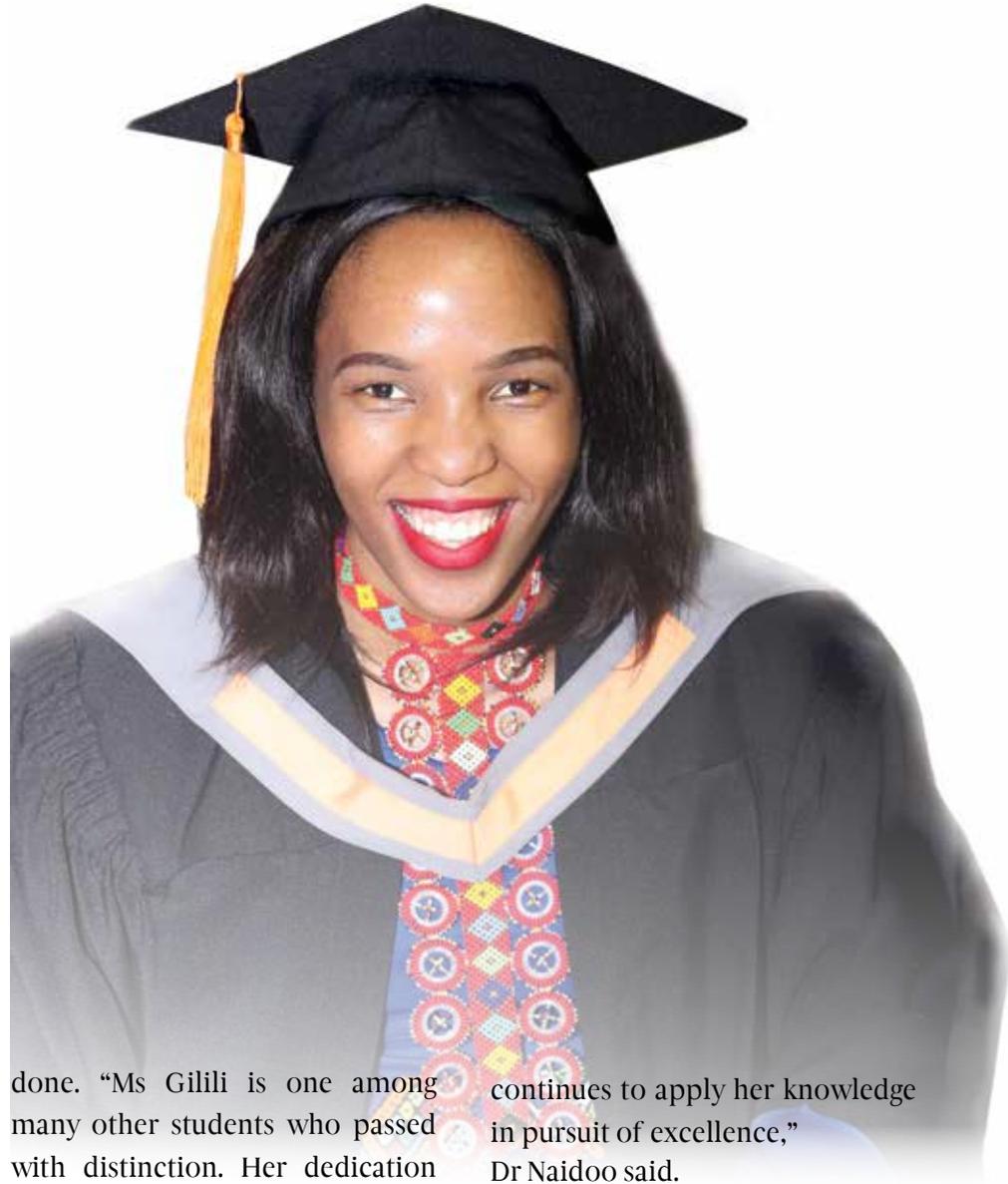
## NTOKOZO GILILI TOP ACHIEVER AWARD

Ntokozo Gilili graduated top of the Faculty of Arts with a Diploma in Public Relations Management and made history as the first person to obtain a higher education qualification in her family during the recent graduation season, thus making 2018 a year of firsts for her.

“I have never been a top achiever before. I have always underestimated my potential and capabilities,” a shocked Gilili said. “When I saw my name on the graduation programme, I was overwhelmed. I worked extremely hard but I did not think I would end up where I ended off. My sleepless nights were not in vain,” she added.

Like the majority of South Africans, the phenomenon of living from hand to mouth is a reality for Gilili. Her father retired fifteen years ago thus the family lives off of her self-employed mother’s menial income. Coming from such a background, Gilili knew that being dedicated in her academics would see her graduating and ultimately changing her family’s financial status. Indeed, she reaped the fruits of her hard labour by obtaining sixteen distinctions for her qualification, an accomplishment her parents are very proud of.

Dr Kevin Naidoo, Senior Lecturer and Acting Head of the Department of Communication Science congratulated Gilili on a job well



done. “Ms Gilili is one among many other students who passed with distinction. Her dedication and hard work have placed her as the highest achiever [in the Faculty of Arts]. Her commitment to her studies serves as a great motivation for all our students. We are certain that she will indeed continue to shine in her future endeavours. On behalf of the staff of the Department of Communication Science, we want to wish her every success in her future as she

continues to apply her knowledge in pursuit of excellence,” Dr Naidoo said.

Gilili is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Technology in Public Relations Management at Durban University of Technology (DUT). She advised undergraduate students never to miss lectures as well as to make use of the tutors available to them as that is what contributed to her success.

- Precious Shamase



# VERUSHA NAIDOO

## Destined for Greatness

From a young age, Richards Bay born Verusha Naidoo exhibited traits of being a lawyer. She would always find herself intervening in conflicts, all in the name of defending the truth.

Fast forward to present day, Naidoo has obtained a Bachelor of Laws degree cum laude, topping all her peers in the Faculty of Commerce, Administration and Law. Her diligence in her academics saw her attaining 29 distinctions out of 40 modules. On the day of her graduation, along with four other top students in her Faculty, Naidoo was presented with a brand new laptop from the office of the Vice-Chancellor. She also received the Top Achiever award from the South African Association of Woman Graduates Award.

Among the factors that contributed to her success, Naidoo counted the exceptional lecturers she had. "I am proud to say that I have no fear of walking into a courtroom because I was equipped with all the necessary skills to litigate and it's all thanks to my UNIZULU lecturers. A big thank you to each and every one of them," said Naidoo.

According to Dr Kanagie Naidoo, the Head of the Department of Law, Naidoo's excellence shone throughout her studies. "Verusha was a student who flew the UNIZULU flag high from the time

she first represented this institution when she was in level two. Verusha has participated in competitions and vacation programmes throughout her studies and has excelled in all that she has done. MacRoberts Attorneys, Cape Town, where she is currently serving her articles is fortunate to have one of our finest graduates and they have also recognised her achievement," Dr Naidoo said. "Verusha is a fine example for all LLB students to follow. Congratulations Verusha. The Department of Law is very proud of you. All the best and God bless," Dr Naidoo added.

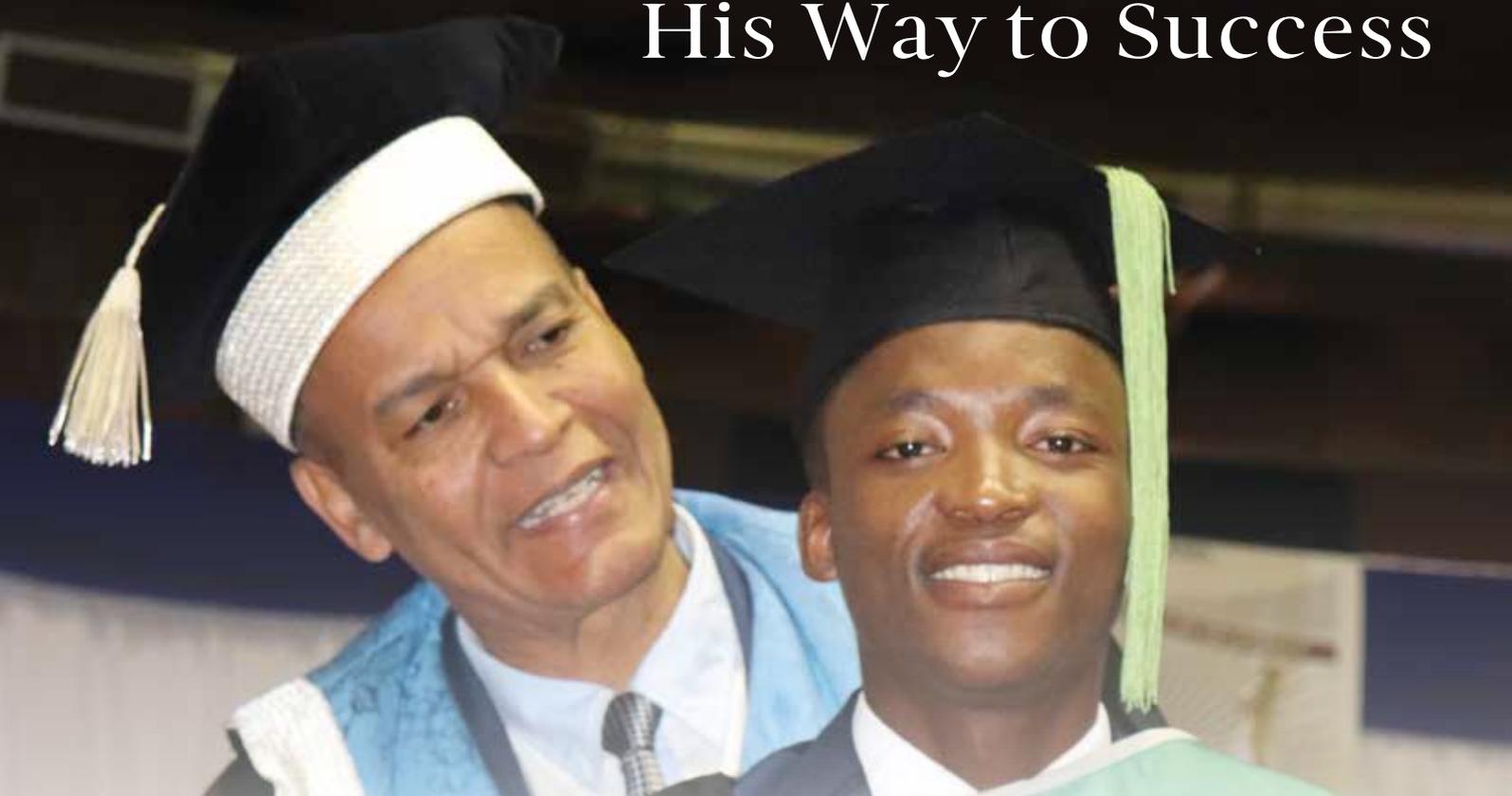
Typical of a top achiever, Naidoo has embarked on a new academic journey. "I am currently working on completing a Diploma through the University of Cape Town, where I attend evening classes while I am working in a corporate law firm during the day. I am also working on finalising a Journal article publication for an international conference. Now that I have my LLB in the bag, LLM is on the cards," she said.

- Precious Shamase





# NDUDUZO SHANDU SLOWLY CARVING His Way to Success



While being raised by a single parent could easily become an excuse for many people not to reach their full potential in life, being raised by a single mother has never kept Nduduzo Msizi Shandu from pursuing his goals.

In fact, owing to his determination, the 21-year-old from Durban graduated cum laude for his Biokinetics degree at the recent UNIZULU Graduations.

"I completed my degree with 22 distinctions and two merits," said Shandu, adding that he is still haunted by the fact that he passed two modules with merit because his goal was to get straight distinctions. Nonetheless, he is glad that all the time he set aside each and every day for his studies ultimately paid off.

Shandu is even more delighted that he has made his mother proud. "My mother is my source of inspiration as she single-handedly raised both me and my sister. She faced many obstacles in her life but overcame these. Her tenacity showed me that even though I never knew my father, I could determine the kind of future I wanted. The past cannot be changed but it is within my power to change the future," he said.

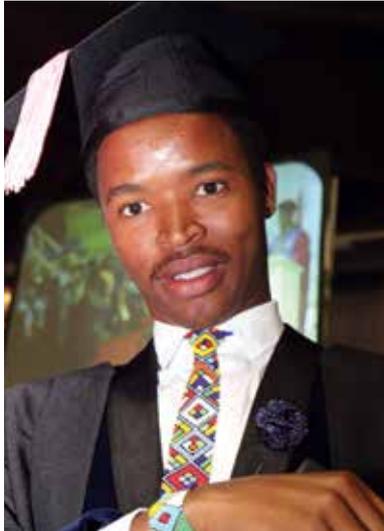
Growing up, Shandu said his mother always advised him and his sister to work hard in order to become self-sufficient in life. This advice has stayed with him to date. "I am not coming from a well-to-do family. I remember in 2015, my mother had to borrow

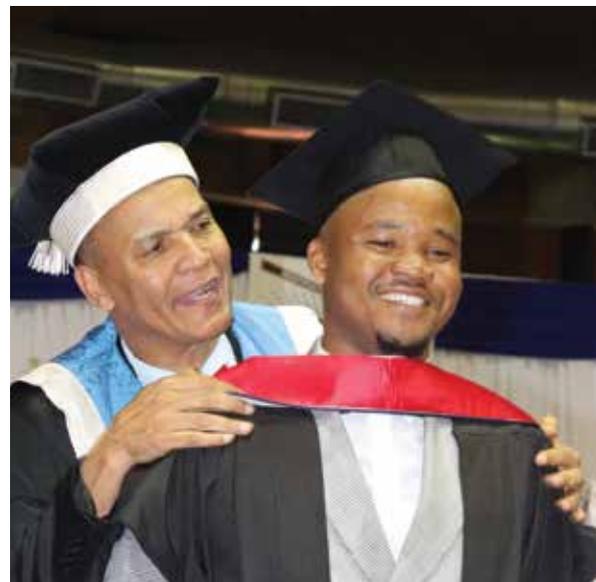
money to pay for my sister and I's registration fees. This drove me to set up my goals and their timeframes so as to know what I was working towards. I told myself that I would finish my degree in record time and show my mother that her efforts to get us an education were not in vain."

Ashis dream is to become a medical doctor specialising in cardiology or sport medicine, Shandu is currently studying towards his Honours in Biokinetics under UNIZULU's Faculty of Science and Agriculture. The young man is also planning to publish "The Tears of a Black Child", an autobiography he has been penning for the past five years.

- Precious Shamase

# # GRADUATION 2018





# IDENTICAL TWIN GRADUATES BEAT THE ODDS



**Pictured: Zandile and Zanele Gumede, identical twins who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Tourism Studies.**

Zanele and Zandile Gumede embody all the typical characteristics of individuals conceived from one egg; they are identical, finish each other's sentences and chose the same profession. Interestingly, they even conceived their own children approximately three weeks apart.

"We do everything together. We are friends and share the same friends. We sing together (they sang in the same choir in high school). We got pregnant at the same time," quipped the twins, while continuing, "We got pregnant two or three weeks apart. Our children were born on 21 May and 18 June 2016 (respectively) and are turning two years old this year."

It is their strong bond that ultimately led the 22-year-olds to enrol for the same degree-

a Bachelor of Arts in Tourism Studies, the degrees of which they received during the UNIZULU Arts Faculty's graduation ceremonies.

Ironically, the twin graduates were in different curriculum streams in high school. They didn't plan to study towards the same degree at university. It's just one of those things that happened by chance. In high school, Zanele did History while Zandile was in Science and it just so happened that they fell in love with Tourism. One of their ultimate plans is for the degree to take them abroad career wise. When asked whether they have previously encountered any difficulties that almost derailed their dreams for the future, the sisters' mood immediately changes. The twins weep as they recount the painful loss of their parents. In 2002 whilst in primary

school, the twins lost their mother and in 2004, would also lose their father, a heartbreak that they clearly carry with them to this day.

Their maternal aunt would however step up to the plate; raising the twins and providing for them through selling food items such as vetkoecks. "Financially it wasn't that bad because we had our aunt. She didn't work and we helped her in her business. We have been able to get this far because of her and we will always be grateful to her. Were it not for her, we would not have been able to graduate," said Zanele.

In terms of future plans, Zandile says they are planning on studying towards their PHD degrees; the next stop being their Honours degree next year (2019).

- Sinegugu Ndlovu



# Interview with PHD GRADUATE MALIK KHAN

UNIZULU PhD graduate Malik Dilshad Khan has set an academic record in the Department of Chemistry by publishing a total of twenty papers whilst pursuing his PhD degree. According to Khan's supervisor and Chemistry Department Lecturer Professor Neerish Revaprasadu, the graduate's accomplishment is "probably a South African record" and the research work he undertook on materials for energy applications was "ground-breaking" too. Read Khan's recent conversation with **#tag**.

## Tell us about yourself?

I am a 30-year-old Muslim from Pakistan. I am not married yet but now that my PhD is over, I am planning to get married any time soon.

## What led you to study at UNIZULU?

I have always wanted to visit South Africa because of its beautiful landscape, exotic beaches and wildlife. While I was doing my MPhil. research work in Pakistan, my supervisor had just started a collaborative programme with Prof Revaprasadu as our research was quite similar. When my supervisor inquired if I wanted to go to South Africa for a research visit, it was like a dream come true. I came to UNIZULU for a six-month research visit in May 2014. I worked really hard and we successfully accomplished two projects. Based on good performance, Prof Revaprasadu recommended I pursue my PhD which I started in Feb 2015.

What would you say has been the wind beneath your wings in publishing your 20 papers?

A good research depends on personal motivation and hard work; an experienced and supportive mentorship and a conducive lab environment, that is co-operative colleagues, staff and facilities are required. Fortunately, my supervisor is a high profile researcher and his continuous motivation and support helped me in achieving such a high number of publications. So far we have published 20 papers and five are under review in high impact journals.

## How do you feel about your academic performance?

Hard work always pays off. The feeling that I have made my research group and country proud gave me a sense of satisfaction which has no substitute.

## What advice would you give to other students?

It is mentioned in the holy book Quran that "there is nothing for man except what he strives for". Without struggle and hard work no one can achieve success. While doing research, results are not always according to the plan, so be patient, have faith in God and read a lot of research papers related to the research topic as it helps in improvisation.

## What's next for Malik?

Currently, I am finalising some research work which was not the part of my PhD thesis. I am also co-supervising some students. I will continue to work with Prof Revaprasadu as it is a great opportunity for me to learn and gain from his experience.



# Law Twin Graduates ATTRIBUTE ACHIEVEMENT TO NEIGHBOUR

While many neighbourhoods who subscribe to the age-old “good fences make good neighbours” notion can attest to its immense contribution to peace and harmony among communities, the story of twin brothers Wamukelwe and Wenzile Mngadi is proof that refusing to conform to societal norms can also yield positive results.

Speaking after obtaining Bachelor of Law degrees (LLB) during the 2018 UNIZULU Graduations, the 25-year-olds from Eskhawini acknowledged that even though various people contributed to their academic accomplishments, their neighbour’s unanticipated, constant support and motivation stood out.

“We thank God for the support structure that we got because it eased off the pressure when it got tough. Apart from the obvious backing from our family, we thank our neighbour uBab’ Zondo because his actions taught us something very essential about life,” said Wenzile.

Through their neighbour’s perpetual interest in their schooling, the twins said they learned that kindness is a virtue that should be extended to everyone- and not just family and friends.

“While we were doing our first year, [Bab’ Zondo] would tell us that Law is a career [worth pursuing]. In our second year, he asked if we [had] thought [about] the thesis for our master’s,” Wamukelwe recalled, adding that this enquiry prompted him and his brother to start thinking about their postgraduate studies.

“I can say that he basically taught us to be more ambitious,” Wamukelwe said, acknowledging that though Bab’ Zondo’s follow-up on their studies seemed invasive at first, in hindsight, he realises that their neighbour had good intentions.

Apart from their neighbour’s backing, the twins said they were grateful for their family’s support. “Our family’s support structure is wonderful. We have a WhatsApp group where we motivate



**Twin brothers Wenzile (left) and Wamukelwe Mngadi.**

each other every morning. Our mom always tells us to stay focused, believe in God and have trust in His ways and our father pushes us to work hard and stay grounded. Actually these achievements are for all those that were there when

we needed them,” Wenzile said.

Both Wamukelwe and Wenzile are presently planning on getting experience in the law field before pursuing their master’s degrees after a few years.

## Fun Facts About the Twins

- The twins’ father only managed to differentiate between the two when they were 22 years old.
- Wamukelwe and Wenzile’s mother is UNIZULU alumna with a Bachelor of Education degree.
- The twins were born prematurely with a weight of approximately 1.1 kilograms, 1.4 kilograms lesser than an average new born baby.
- They have similar interests as well as dislikes and they sometimes have the same dreams on the same nights and even express the same thoughts at the same time (cool right?)
- Wamukelwe was accused of cheating and nearly got dumped once by his then new girlfriend because he forgot to mention that he is a twin. The matter was, however, resolved after a formal introduction was made.
- At the age of eight, the pair had a mischievous habit of climbing on cars whilst the elders would be in church.
- Even though they are twins, the brothers have some differences as well. For instance, Wenzile admits to being lazy while Wamukelwe agrees that he is the short-tempered of the two.

- Samkele Sokhela

# Now That You've Graduated

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Graduating is an exhilarating feeling that symbolises the successful completion of a journey which, for some, is riddled with hardships. Once the graduation ceremony and celebrations are over, however, the pertinent question many find themselves asking is “Where to from here?”. The truth is there isn't a blanket answer to this question because we all have varied goals which we have set out to achieve. But whether you decide to seek employment- taking a hiatus from academics- or pursue postgraduate studies whilst working or simply become an entrepreneur, it is crucial that you are mentally ready for the world and understand the great demand that comes with being a graduate in this country. To inspire you in this regard, #tag has summed up key points raised by some of the guest speakers during the recent graduation season.

### **Be a Change Agent**

“Your real dream is in integrating the theory you have learnt and assimilated over the years and engage with the real world and start to put to practice the skills you have learned. You need to start looking at your communities with a different strategic lens. You are going to start questioning things; you are not going to be a passive recipient in the communities where you are going to be working. You are fit for practice. You are fit for purpose.”

**Langanani Malamba; Registrar, South African Council for Social Service Professions**

### **Set Definite Career Goals**

“Take responsibility for your own career. Refuse to be a passenger in your career but be the driver and take control of the direction of your career. Be prepared to pay any price in order to further your progress

in your career, but do this on two conditions: it must not be illegal or against your morals. The price is temporary but the rewards are extreme. The difference between an average graduate and an excellent graduate is the preparedness to pay the price. You need to be prepared to do what is necessary in order to achieve what is required. In life, you have two choices: either hard work or a hard life.”

**Dr Nathi Ngcobo; Executive Director and Co-owner, Dalisu Holdings**

### **Have a Strong Character**

Dr James Keevy, Chief Executive Officer at JET Education Services, spoke of three key concepts in the workplace: values, accountability and professionalism. Values- bodies of knowledge, professional skills and qualities- matter because they inform motivations and intentions; hence they shape human action in almost any behavioural setting. Accountability, be it bureaucratic or professional, is required for quality service to members of the public as well as fellow professionals. “Professionalism includes attitudinal aspects- how [we] think and what attitudes and values [we] hold. Professionalism consists of intellectual, behavioural

and attitudinal components. In short, professionalism is seen as the identification and expression of what is required and expected of professionals,” Dr Keevy said.

### **Develop Yourself**

“Do not be content with having one qualification or qualifications from a single institution. Constantly upgrade yourself. This is not limited to academics; just reading a book or learning how to cook, play the keyboard or guitar will do. Look for information, increase your capacity and challenge your mind. When you go out into the field be prepared to fight because it is a battle out there.”

**Dr Nathi Ngcobo; Executive Director and Co-owner, Dalisu Holdings**

### **Choose Associations Wisely**

“You only have one life so choose your friends, relationships and associations correctly. Be selfish when it comes to relationships as some may stifle your progress. Look for and allow value-adding relationships: people who believe in you and what you want to achieve in life.”

**Dr Nathi Ngcobo; Executive Director and Co-owner, Dalisu Holdings**

- Naledi Hlefané



# UNIZULU HALL OF FAME

In its mission statement, UNIZULU counts providing globally competitive graduates, relevant for the human capital needs of our country as one of its objectives. Naturally, the institution has, over the years, produced some of the country's finest graduates- some of whom hold top and influential positions both within and beyond their fields. Here are a few individuals who are flying the UNIZULU flag high.



**Stella Khumalo**  
**CEO of uShaka Marine World**

Stella Khumalo is the current Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of uShaka Marine World since June 2014. After matriculating from St Francis College in Marianhill she went on to complete her Bachelor of Science Degree at UNIZULU, majoring in Botany, Zoology and Biochemistry. Previously, Khumalo was the CEO of the KwaZulu-Natal Liquor Authority and Head of the Provincial Department of Arts and Culture. She is also the founder of Stella Educational Foundation, a Non-profit Organisation (NPO) which aims to empower, support and mentor young bright minds.



**Raymond Zondo**  
**Deputy Chief Justice, South African Constitutional Court**

Deputy Chief Justice obtained his B.Luris qualification from UNIZULU. Between 1997 and 2010, Judge Zondo served in the Labour Court and Labour Appeals Court, after which he served in the North Gauteng High Court from 2011 until his current appointment in the Constitutional Court. Judge Zondo is the current Chancellor of UNIZULU.



**Sizwe Zwane**  
**Principal, Empangeni High School**

Zwane holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Management and a BSc Honours degree in Geography from UNIZULU. He began his career as a Mathematics educator at Zinikeleni High School where he was also a choir conductor. He thereafter worked at various other high schools, teaching Mathematics, Social Sciences and Life Sciences as well as at UNIZULU where he lectured Geography. In April 2018, Zwane was appointed as the first black principal at Empangeni High School. Prior to his appointment, Zwane was the Head of Department for Mathematical Sciences at Empangeni High School after which he was promoted to Deputy Principal a year later



**Sipho Nkosi**  
**President, Chamber of Mines South Africa**

Nkosi holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics from UNIZULU. He started his career as a Market Analyst with Ford Motor Company South Africa in 1980 after which he was appointed as Marketing Coordinator at Anglo American Coal in 1986. He has since occupied key positions which include serving as Marketing Manager of BHP Billiton Limited from 1993 to 1997, being one of the founders and CEO of Eyesizwe as well as serving as CEO of Exxaro Resources Limited from September 1, 2007 to March 31, 2016 and its Executive Director from November 28, 2006 to March 31, 2016.



**Sibongile Mngoma**  
**Jazz and Opera Singer as well as Actress**

Mngoma was born in Soweto but completed her primary and high school education in KwaZulu-Natal. Shortly after matriculating she went on to obtain her BProc degree from UNIZULU. She is an internationally renowned singer and actress. Her first major role was playing Zandile in the opera studio production of Enoch, Prophet of God in 1995. As a soloist she has performed Khumalo's Izibongo zikaShaka, Haydn's Creation and Mozart's Requiem, among other roles. She currently has recorded and released two successful music albums.



**David Mahlobo**  
**Former Minister of Energy and of State Security.**

Mahlobo obtained his BSc Degree in Biochemistry and subsequently received his Honours degree from UNIZULU. During his time at the University, he was an active member of the Student Representative Council (SRC). In 2002, he was appointed as the Director of Transformation in the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry until 2009. From 2009 until 2014, he was appointed Head of Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs in the Mpumalanga Province. The then president of South Africa, Jacob Zuma, appointed Mahlobo to the National Executive Committee (NEC). On 25 May 2014, he was appointed to the cabinet as Minister of State Security until February 2018.



**Bess Nkabinde-Mmono**  
**Judge, Constitutional Court of South Africa**

Judge Nkabinde-Mmono obtained a BProc degree from UNIZULU. Her judicial career began in 1999 when she was appointed to the High Court of South Africa. She served in acting positions in the Labour Court, Labour Appeals Court and in the Supreme Court of Appeal. She has also chaired the Rules Board. In 2006, the then president, Thabo Mbeki, appointed her to the Constitutional Court of South Africa replacing Judge Arthur Chaskalan.



**Nomonde Mbusi**  
**Actress**

Mbusi, born in KwaMashu, Durban, obtained her Bachelor's degree in Dramatic Arts from UNIZULU. In 2016, Mbusi played "Thobeka" in Akin Omotoso's Vaya. Her performance in the film earned her a nomination for best supporting actress at the African Movie Academy Awards. The film went on to win multiple accolades locally and internationally. She also played "Mokopi" in one of South Africa's hit soaps Generations.

- Hlumelo Nyikana



# INSPIRATION

**“Your education is a dress rehearsal for a life that is yours to lead.”**

**- Nora Ephron**



**“My grandmother** definitely played a crucial role in me obtaining my qualification. My parents are deceased so my grandmother has always been there for me whenever I needed her. We are a big family at home but I’m proud of her because she was able to support all of us using her pension grant. She always motivates me. Today, I’m happy and I do not consider myself an orphan because of her and I am truly grateful.”

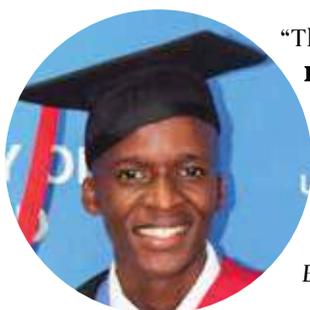
**- Nomkhosi Myeni**

*Bachelor of Arts graduate*

**“My mother** undoubtedly played an important role in me receiving my diploma. She has been supportive all the way. At the most crucial times, she was there to carry me. She is everything to me.”

**- Precious Ngomane**

*Diploma in Public Relations graduate*



**“The person who played a crucial role in me obtaining my qualification is my grandmother, maMthethwa.** She has been my financier since I was in primary school and I am grateful to her for all she has done for me. I feel like my current qualification actually belongs to her. I am only going to claim ownership of my postgraduate qualification. For this particular degree, I give my grandmother all the credit.”

**- Thubelihle Malibongwe Dube**

*Bachelor of Laws graduate*

**“My sister** definitely played vital role in me receiving my degree because she pushed me to do my utmost best in my studies so that I can help change the conditions at home.

We are orphans so she has always been there for me, supporting and encouraging me in difficult times. It’s always hard for her to look after both of us but she always makes sure that I am well taken care of.”

**- Skhumbuzo Sithole,**

*Bachelor of Education graduate*





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