

UNIZULU

#tag



UNIVERSITY OF  
ZULULAND

#News4UsByUs

Jan - April 2017

## Freshers speak out

**Nqobile:**  
*Kicking her way to success*

## Pics: Life on Campus

**In Harmony**  
*Making Their Mark*



# #EditorialComment

This being the first issue of #tag for the year 2017, we'd like to welcome you all to the University of Zululand, especially our first year students who chose Ongoye as their University of choice.

As you may have already seen, UNIZULU is abuzz with many positive activities- be it academic, cultural or social- and we look forward to your positive contribution and participation in these endeavours as we take the University to greater heights.

Speaking about positive things, we are proud to say that #tag is filled with inspiring stories bearing witness to our excellence as a University. One such story is of Nqobile Portia Msimang, who, through karate, is challenging gender stereotypes. Another positive story is of #tag winning a MACE Excellence Award late last year (2016) amongst stiff national competition in its category. We are extremely pleased with the award which would not have been won without your support and co-operation as our valued students.

Indeed, while the University may face many problems and challenges, like all others around the country, the stories featured in this publication bear witness to the good work being done all around our University and we must celebrate and even boast about these accomplishments.

We also have a great spread of social pictures on our #lifeOnCampus section. Who knows? Maybe your photo is also featured so do check out that section.

On a separate note, we are constantly on the lookout for interesting student related stories on campus. If you have any such stories, please touch base with us by visiting our offices (Communications and Marketing Division, Admin Building, ground floor) or by emailing us at Gumedes@unizulu.ac.za or NdlovuSP@unizulu.ac.za. We'd love to hear from you in this regard.

Till the next issue... ciao.

## Editorial Team

Sphamandla Gumedede, Sihle Mabaso,  
Lydia Meyer, Veronica Botha and Sinegugu Ndlovu

## Contributors

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## In Harmony Making Their Mark

Not so long ago, Bhekani Buthelezi, UNIZULU Choir Conductor, needed a team of singers to help come up with songs for the 21st musical instalment of South African biggest and most loved gospel ensemble, Joyous Celebration.

Back then, there was a large number of people who were involved in that process; most who were also a part of the UNIZULU Choir. That large number of participants eventually dwindled down to 11, and that group of students decided to form an official group: In Harmony.

The name of the group, whose name was coined following a prayer where the group asked God “to help them sing in harmony”, consists of **Kutlwano Mohanoe**, LLB level 3 student;

**Thembalihle Hlophe**, BSc Botany and Zoology alumna;

**Qinisile Faith Ntimane**, BA Development Studies alumna;

**Nosipho Luthuli**, BSc Hydrology and Zoology level 3 student;

**Mlamuli Eugene Madiya**, B Ed alumnus;

**Sinaye Thandile Mbelu**, Bachelor of Administration alumna;

**Sibusiso Lindokuhle**

**Mazibuko**, BSc Mathematics and Statics level 2 alumnus;

**Mboyazi Sandile Nduduzo**, BSc Botany and Microbiology level 3 alumnus;

**Ntsike Mbambo** B Ed History and Language (FET phase) level 2 student;

**Phindile Fortunate Ntinga**, BCom Accounting Science level 2 student and **S’bonile Shoji**, Bsc Consumer Science (extension and rural development) level 3 student.

Kutlwano is the creative mind of the group and every song that has been done by the group was selected and rearranged by him. Sibusiso is the group’s music director. He is their instrumentalist and keeps them on key.

The group, which has no formal musical training, attributes its recipe for success to shared leadership, dedication and continuous practice. The fact that some of the members of the group are and have also been members of choirs further adds value to the group. “If you need back up vocalists, we are your go to group,” said the group, adding, “If you need to work out a melody for a song you’ve written, or with shifting



the sound of your choir to a more pop oriented one, or you’d like a group to perform at a function, contact us”.

In Harmony’s official performance was afforded to them by UNIZULU during one of the University’s annual Women Day celebrations event last year (2016). The group scored the gig based on videos posted on their Facebook page.

Through a collaboration, In Harmony performed on SABC’s “Imizwilili” a local choral music show that entertains and informs viewers by presenting choral groups in a fresh and exciting way. On 22 June 2017, the group will be recording again for Imizwilili; this time as a singular unit.

The group has done quite a bit of production work for choir oriented music shows and is planning on expanding the field. “There are a few songs that we have written that we wouldn’t mind recording as a unit and thereafter releasing. That might happen sooner rather than later,” said the group. “On the far end of the spectrum, and right now to be honest, we want to be rich. God willing, we can do this and make a solid living out of it”, added the group.

The group is planning on venturing into varying forms of businesses. “We are unstoppable”, said the group.

Contact the group by emailing [inThisHarmony@gmail.com](mailto:inThisHarmony@gmail.com).

## Nqobile: Kicking her way to success

SIYABONGA MYENI

**N**qobile Portia Msimang (21) is standing firm against gender stereotypes and empowering women in the name of karate. Raised in Durban (KwaMashu) the passionate karateka takes us back to 2005 when it all began to the redefining moment that would lead her earning first black belt in 2013.

“Obtaining my first black belt was a massive achievement. I was overwhelmed and extremely excited,” she recalls.

Although humble at heart, Nqobile is kicking her way through a multitude of tournaments, most recent being the provincial tournament (Ulundi) where she got first position in the Kata category.

The young karateka has also competed as part of a team in the University Sports of South Africa (USSA) contest, earning second position in 2016. Inspired by family and fellow karatekas, Nqobile’s passion for karate is fuelled by her dream to establish dojos and teach women how to defend themselves.

“I want to keep on training. I want to know more about karate and one day become an international fighter,” she says.

Although pursuing her Bachelor of Education degree in Maths and Science, she asserts that karate requires just as much commitment and discipline to endure the

intense training. “Karate is a very disciplined sport.

Its ultimate aim lies not in victory or defeat but in the perfection of one’s character.”

The aspiring international fighter asserts that karate is also therapeutic as it helps harness the mind, body and soul, achieving impeccable focus which is essential in and outside of the ring.

Picture by Sphamandla Gumede



*Nqobile Portia Msimang who is flying the UNIZULU flag in the karate arena.*



## Excellence Award for #tag Magazine!

#tag, the student centred magazine that is one of the vehicles catering to the information and entertainment needs of students at the University of Zululand (UNIZULU) scooped an excellence award at the 2016 Annual MACE (Marketing, Advancement and Communication in Education) Conference and AGM.

The conference was held in Durbanville, Western Cape, in November.

#Tag won a Merit Award in the Internal Printed Magazines category in recognition to outstanding performance among South African practitioners in higher, technical and vocational education and training institutions.

Photographs taken by the University as part of its internal and external news gathering exercises also scooped a Merit Award in the News Photography category in recognition to outstanding performance among South African practitioners in higher, technical and vocational education and training institutions.

MACE unites marketing, advancement and communication practitioners from Higher Education and Further Education and Training (FET) sectors in South Africa. The conference promotes competence, networking and partnerships as well as



*An ecstatic Sphamandla Gumede, Public Relations Assistant, with the MACE Excellence Awards.*

advancement in marketing and communication departments within higher education.

Sphamandla Gumede, Public Relations Assistant at the University of Zululand, said he was thrilled about both awards which were achieved amongst stiff competition from other South African higher education institutions. He thanked the Communications and Marketing Division (CMD) team, as well as student who have contributed to the magazine for making the project a success. "The MACE awards enabled us to measure ourselves against other higher education institutions and the awards serve as testament that we are on the right track. #tag is a student centred magazine that uses a lot of contribution from our students from an

editorial perspective, so this award; coupled with the fact that many of our students have come to love the magazine actually serves as a motivational boost not only to the CMD team, but the students we work with on the project. Well done to the entire #Tag team. They

did very well. We are also extremely appreciative of the support we have received from our student contributors and other stakeholders involved in making the project a success and ask for continued support in all our endeavours as a division and university", he said.



*Siboniso Cele, Web Manager; Philile Manzi, Events Co-ordinator; Gcina Nhleko, Communications and Marketing Director, and Sphamandla Gumede, Public Relations Assistant with the UNIZULU MACE Excellence Awards.*



# #LifeOnCampus





# #LifeOnCampus



## Freshers speak out: why they love

**UNIZULU** has successfully administered thousands of applications sent by hopefuls who were seeking a spot, granting them the first step towards achieving their dreams. The #Tag team caught up with first year students from each faculty to pen their first chapter as they embark on their new adventurous journeys.

SIYABONGA MYENI



*Sue-Anne Ngcobo*

**Sue-Anne Ngcobo** (20) is an ambitious young woman from a small township called Ilovu in Durban. The aspiring model matriculated from Siyabonga Secondary School and is eager to show the world that a rough background does not make one less entitled to greatness.

“Losing my mother at a young age required me to be a mother to my younger sister. I had to take a gap year after matric to work until I had enough to enrol at a university.”

Although day one was

nerve-wrecking, Sue-Anne has grown to enjoy life on campus as she is enticed by the beautiful environment and the opportunities that are now within her grasp.

Sue-Anne’s passion for radio, fashion and presenting has placed her in UNIZULU’S Faculty of Arts as she is pursuing her degree in Inter-cultural Communication.

Determined to bring her degree home, Sue-Anne asserts the importance of staying focused and consorting with the right crowd as the lack of either will not yield the result that she desires.



*Ethan Raphael Ramkuar*

**Ethan Raphael Ramkuar** (20) is a Durbanite whose passion for justice has placed him in UNIZULU’S Faculty of Commerce, Administration and Law.

The aspiring judge exudes discipline and determination, finding joy in reading, preaching and spreading the word of God.

“I am a firm believer in justice and fairness. I believe that everyone should be treated equally to ensure that justice prevails,” he asserts.

Entrenched in church ministries, Ethan is also a student

Pastor at Pentecostal Denominational College where he is seen enriching people in the name of Jesus Christ.

Ethan documents his experience in UNIZULU as nothing short of amazing with the minor exception of nerves that got the better of him during his first day on campus.

The man of God admires the secluded environment of UNIZULU and the diverse culture of students that he has adapted to. Determined to graduate, Ethan asserts that hard work, discipline and unwavering faith will see him through to the big day.



# the University of Zululand



*Bridget Nkosi*

All the way from **Amputalanga**, **Bridget Nkosi** (19) is a goal-driven student who is working towards her dream of becoming a doctor.

Bridget is pursuing her Bachelor of Science degree in Botany and Zoology which is offered in the Faculty of Science and Agriculture. Keen to make her mother proud Bridget has embraced UNIZULU'S atmosphere with open arms and is amazed at how the university has exceeded her expectations.

"Day one on campus had me excited and nervous at the same time. I could not believe that I was a

university student," she reflects.

Proud of this accomplishment, Bridget remains nostalgic of life in Insika Senior Secondary School where she matriculated in 2016. Nevertheless, the bright student is optimistic about new beginnings, admiring the kind staff and orientating herself with her university.

Bridget is set on achieving her goals, asserting the importance of committing to her studies and attending her classes. Although outgoing and fascinated with science, she also finds joy in writing poetry, reading novels and solving puzzles.

Leaving Tholokuhle High School meant saying goodbye to a Gospel choir that **Scelo Ngema** (22) was happily devoted to.

Born and raised in Esikhaleni, the easy-going socialite has enrolled for his Bachelor of Education degree in Intermediate and Senior Phases, gratifying his love of working with numbers.

Scelo is a respectful inquisitive man whose interest in dance, cooking and stand-up comedy helps him cope with hard work. Out to represent the unsung heroes of today, he has begun his journey of becoming a teacher and is

thrilled with the offerings of UNIZULU.

"My first day on campus was exciting because of the new environment, people and the education system," he says.

UNIZULU has become a home for Scelo as he is already content with the buildings, classes as well as the lecturers. Although many aspects about UNIZULU interest him, the access to WIFI marks his favourite as it is a great resource to obtain information.

Scelo asserts that attending classes, studying and staying consistent will make his academic journey a pleasant story worth sharing one day.



*Scelo Ngema*

## Dr Nonhlanhla Precious Cele

Meet Dr Nonhlanhla Precious Cele (32), an alumna of the University of Zululand who is the Head of Temperature and Humidity Laboratories at the National Metrology Institute of South Africa (NMISA).

Dr Cele obtained her PhD in Physics and Engineering (Material Science); MSc. Physics (Material Science); BSc Hons. Physics (Nuclear physics and Material Science) as well as her BSc. Physics and Electronics from the University of Zululand.

Dr Cele's PhD dissertation was titled: *Preparation and Characterization of Nafion - based nanocomposite membranes for fuel cell applications* while her Master's dissertation was titled: *Synthesis and characterization of platinum-carbon nanotube composites*.

#Tag caught up with Dr Cele and this is what she had to say.

**#Tag:** What factors influenced you to choose this career path?

**Dr Cele:** I have always been interested in how things work and the definition of matter nurtured my interest in science. At first, I thought of having a career in medicine but then I learned

about Newton's laws, which gave me a little understanding of matter and why things work the way they do. I then choose to do Physics to advance my knowledge of matter or material sciences.

**#Tag:** What kind of education, training, or background does your job require?

**Dr Cele:** It requires maths and science education, be it a postgraduate degree in Science, Mathematics or Engineering. South Africa does not offer a Metrology qualification at the moment but we are working towards realising that.

**#Tag:** What do you do? What are the duties/functions/responsibilities of your job?

**Dr Cele:** The National Metrology Institute of South Africa (NMISA) is mandated to keep, maintain and disseminate the national measurement standards and units to an acceptable international standard. Our job is to provide the South African industry, environmental, health and safety sectors with fit-for-purpose measurement standards and measurements. We maintain the highest level of accuracy in temperature and humidity measurements in the country. We calibrate, test,

and verify the measuring equipment for the industry. We do research to maintain high level accuracy and develop new measurement standards by participation in the international laboratory comparisons. I am responsible for the day-to-day running of the laboratories, strategic planning, business planning, financial and people management.

**#Tag:** What part of this job do you personally find most satisfying?

**Dr Cele:** Helping others with the science knowledge and skills I acquired during my career. Then seeing what a difference it makes in their own careers.

**#Tag:** What is your job description?

**Dr Cele:** To keep NMISA temperature and humidity section successful. To accomplish this, we use our science skills to help other scientists to increase the quality of their measurements, research and to help the South African industry, environmental, health and safety sectors with fit-for-purpose measurements. We assist scientists through our training to enable them to understand and use metrology techniques successfully.

**#Tag:** What particular skills or talents are most



Dr Nonhlanhla Precious Cele

essential to be effective in your job?

**Dr Cele:** Innovation as well as ethical practice, independence and the ability to avoid bias, high level of hard science skills, expertise in my field, high level of soft skills at the national and international levels, time management, project management and emotional intelligence.

**#Tag:** Tell us about your family.

**Dr Cele:** I am married and I have a son who is 13 years old and two daughters who are aged nine and two.



# #Promoting Health Education

## HIV/AIDS Awareness at UNIZULU

In a bid to advance health education as well as awareness about sexually transmitted infections such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis as well as other health and social conditions affecting young people in higher education, the Student Services Department (SSD) at the University of Zululand (UNIZULU) hosted the First Things First campaign.

Held on Monday, 20 February 2017, and Tuesday, 21 February, the campaign; which was held at the KwaDlangezwa and Richards Bay was organised by a task team from all sections of the University under the SSD banner. The task team collaborated with colleagues from Drama in AIDS Education (DramAidE); an organisation constituted as an outreach program of UNIZULU to facilitate critical awareness and transfer skills among under-resourced communities of KwaZulu-Natal.

The First Things First campaign was held at the KwaDlangezwa and Richards Bay campuses and saw the roll-out of various wellness services which culminated in the national launch of the Dialogue on Gender Based Violence that took place on



*Professor Xoliswa Mtose, UNIZULU Vice-Chancellor, and Mduzuzi Manana, Deputy Minister in the Higher Education and Training Department, at the dialogue.*

Friday, 24 February 2017, at the KwaDlangezwa Campus. High profile guests such as Mduzuzi Manana, Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, and Professor Xoliswa Mtose, UNIZULU Vice-Chancellor attended the dialogue.

The First Things First campaign was designed by the Higher Education and Training HIV/AIDS Programme (HEAIDS) to advance health education and awareness about HIV/AIDS, STIs, TB and other related health and social conditions affecting the progress of young people in all South African Higher Education institutions. The campaign aims to prevent new infections and

to ensure that those who are infected and affected by the aforementioned conditions receive proper treatment and support as a matter of national priority. In the process, students and staff in are encouraged to get tested and to know their HIV statuses.

HEAIDS, AidsWise, DramAidE, the King Cetshwayo District Health Department, the Foundation for Professional Development (FPD), Broad Reach, Southern African Clothing and Textile Workers' Union (SACTWU) as well as Van Schaik Bookstore sponsored and partnered on the event.

"The week from the 20th

to the 24th of March stood out as a milestone in the history of the University of Zululand," said Sibusiso Mchunu, the Dean of Students at the University of Zululand. "The Deputy Minister (of Higher Education and Training) made it clear that it was the first successful launch of the Dialogue on Gender Based Violence in the country in a higher education institution. It also set a high benchmark for those institutions," said Mchunu. He added, "Besides the strong support and participation by students, the collaboration by different stakeholders ensured that it (the campaign) became the success that it was."

The Student Services Department initiated and led an outstanding programme, a view that is shared by guests from other institutions as well as the Department of Education and Training. The programme would however have not been that much of a success without the contribution of other stakeholders such as the Communications and Marketing Department, Protective Services Department, Peer Helpers and Physical Planning and Works. The contribution by colleagues from those departments is worth mentioning," he said.



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