



# #tag

January-March 2018

NEWS FOR US, BY US

We ♥ UNIZULU:  
*from the Freshers' Mouths*

**6 Film Awards**  
for UNIZULU Students

**The 411 for Students  
with Disabilities**

# # EDITOR'S NOTE

A new year has begun! Is it still permissible to wish people a happy new year at this stage? Nevertheless, kindly accept our well wishes to you. It gives us great pleasure to welcome all our new students for the year 2018. We are happy to see our returning students as well. We wish you all a productive academic year that will culminate in triumph.

So, did you notice anything different with this issue? Yes, we have revamped #tag. The design world is forever evolving; design trends alike. Bearing this in mind, we felt it fitting to start this new year with a youthful and modern design that is indicative of the student population we cater for. While we have added a few new features (such as the #VoxPops on page 3 and #Inspiration on page 11), we have stayed true to our mandate to produce content that is educational, inspiring and entertaining. So, you will still find our much-loved #CampusLife pages which showcase our students as they go about their affairs around campus. We will still inspire you with stories of our students' notable achievements.

Speaking of accomplishments, you have to read the story of our students who participated in and won six awards at the uMkhanyakude District Film Festival. You will find this on page 10. We also featured a guide to surviving "uni life" for our freshmen. We hope you will find this useful.

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

Until next time, happy reading and goodbye.

#tag

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## What is your stance on the free education intervention in SA?



"The Free education intervention is good and bad. It's good in the sense that many will get opportunities to study and better themselves but it is also bad for taxpayers who will be paying more in taxes as a result of the intervention."

**- Zandile Shongwe**

*None purpose Degree (Teaching subjects for Postgraduate Certificate in Education)*



"Free education is a good intervention. I only have an issue with the stringent requirements one needs to meet in order to qualify."

**- Hlanganani Ntombela**

*Level three BCom Accounting*



"The intervention is great. Many people who come from impoverished backgrounds will get a chance to improve their situations and give back to their communities and families."

**- Lwandile Mphetshana**

*Level two Industrial Sociology*



"I have conflicting opinions about this intervention. On the one hand, I am glad that opportunities have been opened for citizens who wish to acquire higher education but were previously unable to. On the other hand, I am concerned about the students who, in the past, had good matric results but struggled or took out loans in order to pay for university education. But because this is a new policy, it can be debated and reviewed over time. Its sustainability is also something to consider. I do, however, urge those who have access to this opportunity to use it to the fullest."

**- Menzi Phakathi**

*Level two Development Studies and Public Administration*



"I love that the government has implemented this initiative. A lot of our citizens cannot afford to pay for higher education so this intervention will solve a lot of problems in my opinion."

**- Londeka Zondi**

*Level two Industrial Sociology*



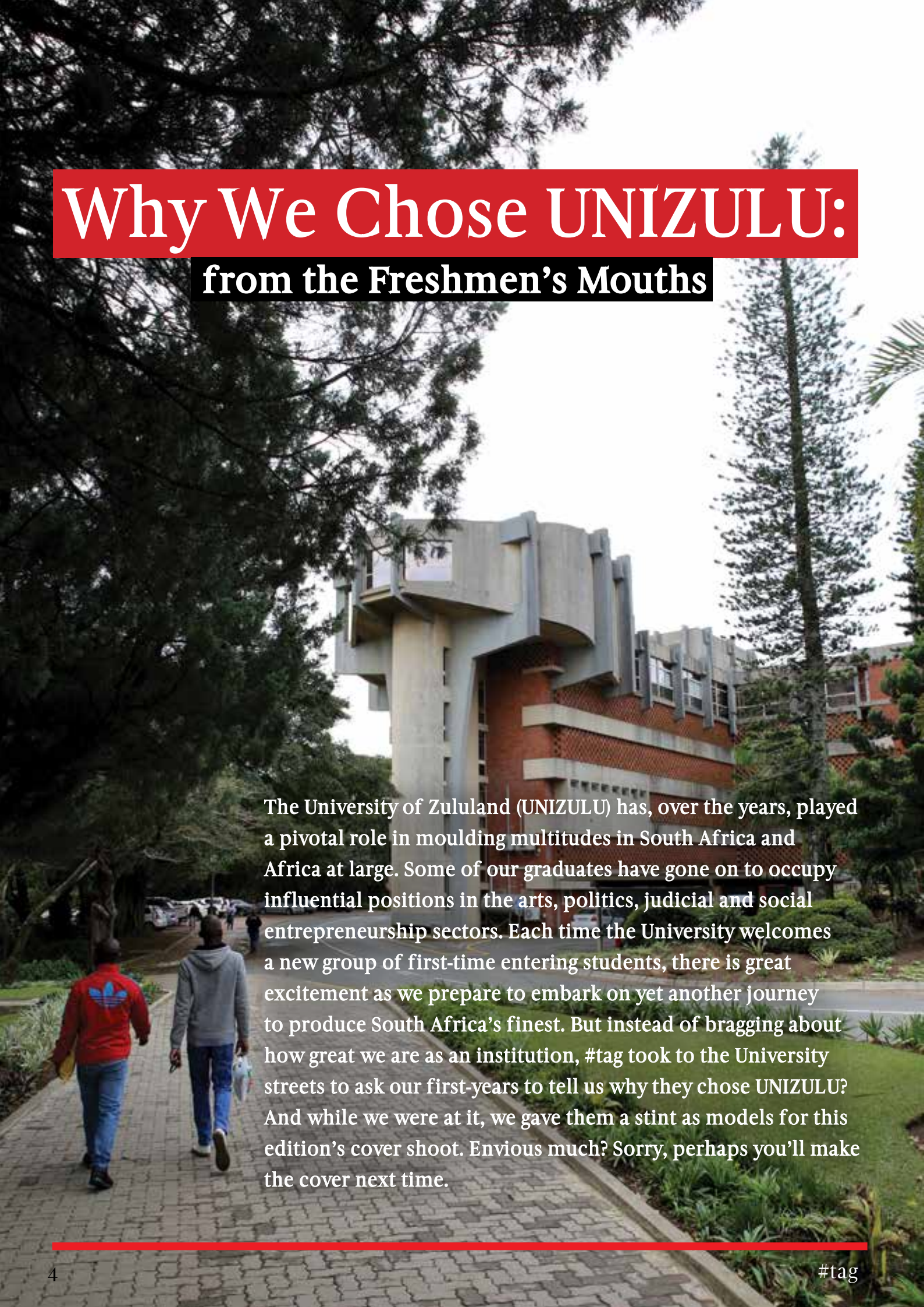
"The idea of free education was proposed in 1994 so it is long overdue. I am for this intervention so long as it is sustainable and does not compromise quality education. Currently, higher education institutions are overpopulated so there needs to be a good strategic plan on how to effectively implement this initiative."

**- Mvelo Shoba**

*Level three Bachelor of Science in Environmental Planning*



# Why We Chose UNIZULU: from the Freshmen's Mouths



The University of Zululand (UNIZULU) has, over the years, played a pivotal role in moulding multitudes in South Africa and Africa at large. Some of our graduates have gone on to occupy influential positions in the arts, politics, judicial and social entrepreneurship sectors. Each time the University welcomes a new group of first-time entering students, there is great excitement as we prepare to embark on yet another journey to produce South Africa's finest. But instead of bragging about how great we are as an institution, #tag took to the University streets to ask our first-years to tell us why they chose UNIZULU? And while we were at it, we gave them a stint as models for this edition's cover shoot. Envious much? Sorry, perhaps you'll make the cover next time.



## Nomfundo Gcabashe

Nomfundo Gcabashe hails from Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal (KZN). The bubbly and outspoken 24-year-old believes verbal communication is her forte thus she decided to enrol for a Bachelor of Administration in Economics. Upon doing her research on this course, she found that it touches upon issues of law, legislation and the constitution- which she has a keen interest on. "In the very near future, I see myself occupying a position in parliament and effecting changes there," said Gcabashe.

On why she chose to study at UNIZULU, Gcabashe said UNIZULU epitomises what KZN is all about: rich in culture and upholds true African values of respect and Ubuntu.

## Lethokuhle Shwala

Nineteen-year old Lethokuhle Shwala was born and raised in Ulundi, KZN. Shwala registered for a BCom Foundation course and will be studying towards a Human Resource Management qualification once completed. "I have always been curious to know

what human resources entails; plus, it would be interesting to be in a position where you can recruit or fire people," said the extroverted Shwala. She said she was inspired to register with UNIZULU after learning of the institution's high-profile alumni. The University is also close to home which is a bonus, she said.

## Austin Blose

Being born and raised in Inanda, Durban took its toll on 18-year-old Austin Blose when he completed his matric at Intshisekelo High School so he decided to apply at a reputable institution that is far away from home. UNIZULU, because of its location and reputation as well as the fact that it offered Blose's course of preference, definitely met the criteria. Blose registered for a Foundation Science course as he would like to one day qualify as a dermatologist.

## Bongisa Quba

Bongisa Quba, from Lusikisiki, Eastern Cape Province, loves everything about computers thus she enrolled for a course in Computer Science. "I am eager to

learn how to create websites for people. That is what interests me most about computer science," she said. When asked why she chose to study at UNIZULU, the talkative young lady said she did her research and found out that the institution has produced some of the best computer scientists.

## Keevash Rooplal

According to eighteen-year-old Keevash Rooplal, from Verulam, KZN, UNIZULU has a certain "charm" that one just cannot seem to resist. "When I came to UNIZULU, the lecturers and some of the student helpers were all very accessible and helpful. It was very nice," Rooplal said. He registered for a Bachelor of Science (Life Science) course because science is very close to his heart. He intends to major in either microbiology or botany. Once he completes his degree, Rooplal said he would like to continue with his postgraduate studies, most likely at UNIZULU.

- Naledi Hlefane

*Pictured from left: Nomfundo Gcabashe, Keevash Rooplal, Lethokuhle Shwala, Austin Blose and Bongisa Quba.*





# HELPFUL TIPS

## for First-year Students



At the mention of the word “university” many high school learners tend to think ‘independence and lots of fun’. While the latter is true, one needs to strike a balance between their academics and social life and should not forget the main reason for their enrolling at university: studying in order to obtain a qualification and secure employment. To ensure that you adapt smoothly to this new phase in your life called “uni life”, #tag has gathered some helpful tips that are sure to see you succeeding in your chosen course of study.

### **Relax**

Make time to come to campus when you don’t have classes so you can familiarise yourself with the environment and key areas such as offices and best places to eat, etc. When studies seem to be overwhelming or you experience any kind of pressure from peers, remind yourself of where you come from and where you are headed in life.

### **Find people & be cautious**

Choose friends wisely. Be in the company of people who are like-minded.

### **University isn’t like high school**

University is unlike high school. Lecturers will not keep track of your attendance. Attending lectures is strictly your responsibility and prerogative.

### **Be responsible**

Having a little fun isn’t a bad thing but be responsible. Avoid putting yourself in situations that may put you at risk of being abused either sexually, emotionally or physically.

### **Use breaks wisely**

There is usually a lot of free time between lectures which might lead one to think “Gee! That’s a lot of

free time! I could spend it catching up with friends, going shopping or do whatever I want!” Well, not quite. Balancing your free time between studying and your ‘me’ time isn’t as easy as it sounds. There is more workload at university than in high school: thus one needs to invest a lot more time in their studies. If you have a break in between lectures, it is advisable to grab a bite to eat and either go over your work or begin assignments. The earlier you get things done, the more time you’ll have to yourself later! You’ll also stress out less rather than realising you have five assignments due the next day.

### **Practise good management**

Have a balanced lifestyle. Know when to have fun and when to study.

Students are infamous for misusing money and spending it on unnecessary things. Make sure you spend your money and time wisely.

### **Participate**

Join societies and student clubs so you can meet people with similar interests. The University’s Student Services Department (SSD) has an array of societies such as the Debating Club and Enactus.

Students may also benefit from joining one particular society that is similar to the television show *Speak Out* where people share their struggles and get help.

### **Don’t be afraid to ask for help**

Lectures may be pretty overwhelming, considering the multitudes of peers with whom you share the lecture room. Do not hesitate to approach lecturers and tutors should you have any enquiries or need something repeated. Remember, they were once first-year students too so they completely understand how intimidating university life can be. If you ever get lost or are not sure where to find something, just ask a fellow student where to go. The worst thing they might say is, ‘I’m not sure.’

### **Report**

Your health and security in and around campus is at the heart of the University. The Protective Services Department (PSD) exists so the University community can report any unlawful activities. Make use of this service.

- Samkele Sokhela

*Tips sourced from: Nompumelelo Khaba, Thubelihle Mtshali, Lindani Biyela (University of Zululand’s Student Services Department Peer Helpers) and Youth Central.*



# # UNIZULU CARES ABOUT STUDENTS with Disabilities

The University of Zululand (UNIZULU) has broadened its mission and scope towards becoming more inclusive as well as ensuring the protection of the constitutional rights of students with disabilities.

UNIZULU believes that all students, regardless of their ability, should have a sense of belonging at the University. Many students living with disabilities experience different and unique challenges; thus equally unique solutions need to be developed for them.

Through the Disability Unit, the University strives to ensure that students with disabilities have a fulfilling experience whilst studying towards their qualifications. The unit is dedicated to promoting equality, opposing all forms of discrimination and encouraging participation of all students in university life.

Support services for students with disabilities entail assessing the needs of the students and thereafter designing responsive programmes.

## DID YOU KNOW?

1. There is a society for students with disabilities on both the KwaDlangezwa and Richards Bay campuses. Students with disabilities are encouraged to join this society so that they may voice out any issues of concern to them.
2. The Disability Unit, together with the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), is working towards making learning aid devices available to students living with disabilities as a means of assisting them with whatever learning challenges they may face.
3. The University has a Campus Health Clinic on both campuses and students with disabilities are given priority. The ambulance service is also always on stand-by to assist with attending to medical issues faced by students with disabilities.
4. It is your responsibility to ensure that the University is aware of your individual requirements. If you have a disability, specific learning difficulty (such as dyslexia), and/or a long-term medical condition, you are urged to inform your personal tutor and make an appointment with the Academic or Disability Support. Your personal information remains confidential. However, any information regarding necessary support is shared on a need-to-know basis.
5. For any queries related to how the institution can assist you with your unique disability, you are welcome to visit Mr Phiwa Mjadu at the Thandanani Complex, Unit 13, Office 12 or contact him on 035 902 6398/MjaduP@unizulu.ac.za.

- Precious Shamase



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# CAMPUS LIFE











# UNIZULU Student FILMMAKERS ON THE RISE

Upward is the only direction budding filmmakers, who are students and alumni of the University of Zululand (UNIZULU), are prepared to take following their triumph at the UMkhanyakude District Film Festival where they snatched six out of nine awards.

During the festival, the filmmakers presented three 15 minute short films titled *The Dress*, *Blood on my hands* and *Gqonqa*. *The Dress* and *Blood on my hands* ticked all the boxes in the judging criteria (in terms of creativity, storyline, acting, scriptwriting and directing) and won three awards each in the Best Shot Film, Best Actress, Best Director of Photography, Best Shot Film-Runners Up, Best Edited Film and Best Script categories, respectively.

Best Director of Photography (DOP) award winner James Thwala, who completed his Honours degree in Library and Information Science at UNIZULU in 2017, attributed the teams commitment and solidarity to its victory at the awards ceremony.



“The films were produced in a space of two weeks; that’s what makes receiving these awards so special. We spent days and nights shooting, editing and producing as we were under pressure to deliver on time-which we did,” recalled Thwala.

Nondumiso Nyawo, the writer, actress and director of *The Dress* who won the Best Actress award for the same film, echoed Thwala’s sentiments saying the teamwork and punctuality of the cast and crew were major contributing factors to their achievements.

Nyawo also acknowledged the morale support she received from her lecturer Gift Marovatsanga while she was studying towards her Drama & Performance degree.

“Without him, I wouldn’t have recognised my potential,” she said.

Prior to the festival, the filmmakers had attended a filmmaking workshop conducted by the UMkhanyakude District Municipality’s Department of Arts and Culture in the Drakensberg. It was here where their filming skills were honed.

Production companies of the films were *WeCanDo Productions*, *Mementos.inc* and *New vision quality Services*.

- Samkele Sokhela

Top picture: UNIZULU student filmmakers on set.

Pictured above: UNIZULU student filmmakers after receiving their six awards at the uMkhanyakude District Film Festival.

To sponsor these ambitious filmmakers, mail to [wecandopro@gmail.com](mailto:wecandopro@gmail.com) or call 082 269 1768/061 423 3619.





# INSPIRATION

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” - Nelson Mandela

## This person shaped my character



“My older brother, Lunga, and I were raised by our grandmother after our parents died. My brother motivates me in many ways. After completing matric, he worked and decided to go back to school after some time. He is a teacher now and supports the family. Seeing him succeed motivates me to do well in my studies so that I too can fulfil my dream.”

- **Mxolsisi Magubane**

*Level two Correctional Studies*



## This person showed me impossible is nothing

“I was raised by a single mother under challenging circumstances. My mom is self-employed and though business would often be bad, she made sure that my siblings and I never went to bed hungry. She is a strong woman and I am inspired by her resilience. When I complete my studies and find employment, I want to spoil her rotten. I also plan to build her her dream house.”

- **Nokuthaba Zikhali**

*Postgraduate Development Studies*



## Being active in student politics changed me



“I used to be very timid but I decided to participate in student politics when I came to UNIZULU. My life has since changed; I am bolder now and I look at the world from a different perspective. I know most people think politics is about fighting but, on the contrary, it is not. I personally have benefitted a lot from being active in student politics in that I have acquired leadership skills and I feel that I am making a valuable contribution to society.”

- **Christiaan Larregle**

*Level three Environmental Planning and Development*



## This song enlightened me

“While I was still in grade 11, back in 2015, I heard a powerful song by *Qhoshha Ngokwenza Kwakhe*, a maskandi musician from Eshowe. The song carries a strong message about how young women should empower themselves through education instead of depending on rich men or sugar daddies for their livelihood.”

- **Tshengisile Ntombela**

*Level two Bachelor of Education: FET*



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