

#tag

UNIZULU



UNIVERSITY OF
ZULULAND

#News4UsByUs

July 2017

**Hlengiwe's Amazing
Journey of Courage**

Pics: Grad in Pictures

**Bongekile:
Top Achiever Award**

**Meet Your UNIZULU
Debating Team**

**Doing UNIZULU
Proud in America**



#EditorialComment

This edition of #tag acknowledges and celebrates academic excellence in all its glory. From the student who made it through tough financial hardships to emerge triumphant with their qualification; to the student who burnt the midnight oil improving their knowledge in their field of study, we salute your grit and resolve towards getting an education.

This Graduation Issue celebrates that determination. We hope that this willpower demonstrated by those who have come before you serves as a positive example to you.

Graduation was once described as an “avalanche of hope” by Vice Admiral Refiloe Mudimu, South African Navy Chief who has now retired from this position. Here, V Adm Mudimu was alluding to the power of education after witnessing hundreds of graduands descend the graduation stage at one of KwaZulu-Natal’s higher education institutions.

Education is easily one of the most empowering forces in the world. It provides the key to a better life which is backed up by the yearly student strikes at higher education institutions in South Africa. Sometimes destructive as they may be, at the core of the protest actions is almost always the battle and dream for a better life by young people who see education as their only way out of poverty and a life of hardship. As much as it is a right, education is also a privilege and we can only hope that as you read this editor’s note, you realise just how fortunate you are to be studying at a university when so many of your peers remain outside looking in; their dreams shattered in an instant.

This issue also features a collage of graduation pictures on pages 8 and 9.

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 Gumede, Lydia Meyer, Veronica Botha and Sinegugu Ndlovu

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Hlengiwe: An Inspiring Story of Courage

SINEGUGU NDLOVU

Born with osteogenesis imperfecta (OI), a group of genetic disorders that mainly affect the bones, Hlengiwe Mabaso's life has borne testament that grit is one of the key requirements to navigating through everyday life.

Hlengiwe recently graduated with her Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) degree during this year's UNIZULU Graduation Ceremonies. What should have taken her four years to complete (her B.Ed degree), instead took her five years as a result of difficulties she faced because of her disability.

"I began my B.Ed studies in 2012 and was faced with the challenge of not being able to access lecture rooms because of the fact that I'm wheelchair bound," she said. "As a result, I deregistered in March that year. Fortunately, Qaphelani Dlamini, a fellow B.Ed student who was in his third year at the time who also has a disability spoke to the then Dean about my situation. An arrangement was made with my lecturers to accommodate me by swapping lecture halls and lecturing in accessible lecture rooms when I was attending classes," she said.

Because Hlengiwe could not attend lectures for one major subject, she gave up during her third year of study, yet again contemplating deregistering. Another guardian angel, Thamsanqa Ntshinga, who was a lecturer in the B.Ed Department, convinced her

not to give up; assuring her that she would graduate if she held on a while longer. And so she did.

Recounting her incredible story of bravery, Hlengiwe was born in Rockcliff, Ladysmith. During her infancy, she would be diagnosed with osteogenesis imperfecta, also known as brittle bone disease, which results in bones that break easily. The severity may be mild to severe depending on the individual.

"My family accepted my condition very early on but it wasn't so easy for other children. Until the age of eleven, I walked on my knees because I did not have a wheelchair. As a result, I remember that as a child, other children would run away from me and would not want to play with me. That was very painful for me," she said.

Because of her disability, Hlengiwe started grade one schooling when she was nine years old. This is because she had been hospital bound (until the age of nine); with the staff doing everything in their power to help her learn how to walk through physiotherapy and other medical interventions.

"When I started schooling at the age of nine, I used crutches to help me walk. Unfortunately, one of my legs became swollen less than six months after I began schooling. In grades one and two, my mother would carry me to school until I got a wheelchair at the age of eleven," said Hlengiwe.



Pictured: Hlengiwe Mabaso during her graduation in May this year (2017).

Asked what made her push on in the face of such incredible odds, Hlengiwe said she wanted to make her mother- who struggled to raise her as a single parent- proud.

She thanked Messrs Ntshinga and Dlamini for their helping hand, urging other students who may be facing difficulty to not give up. "Resting on your laurels is never an option.

Fight on because only you can change your life. Don't take advantage of your disability or any other

disadvantage and feel entitlement. Your future is your own responsibility so do whatever it takes to succeed. I wouldn't have made it without Mr Dlamini and Mr Ntshinga so I thank them for their immense contribution to my life," she said.

Hlengiwe is currently seeking employment at schools which have infrastructure that can accommodate her disability. She is also considering retuning to UNIZULU to study towards a B. Com degree.

Sizwe Overcomes Tough Life to Graduate with Flying Colours

SINEGUGU NDLOVU

Orphaned at one-and-a-half years old to live a life that was far from easy, Sizwe Maguni, who graduated with 25 distinctions from the University of Zululand (UNIZULU) is proof that one's past does not determine their future.

Maguni was honoured as one of the Top Achievers at the UNIZULU Education Faculty. He graduated on Monday, 8 May 2017, during the University's 2017 Graduation Ceremonies held at the King Bhekuzulu Hall, KwaDlangezwa Campus, KwaDlangezwa. The Graduation Ceremonies started on Monday, 8 May 2017, ending on Friday, 12 May 2017.

"I'm very excited about my academic performance. In truth, I did not expect it as I found Geography and English to be difficult majors," said the 23-year-old Maguni graduated with his Batchelor of Education (Further Education and Training: Geography and Language) degree.

Unwavering discipline is counted by Maguni as his recipe for success, saying that as from high school, he normally studied up until 1h30 and would wake up at 4h00 during exam time to make sure that he

Picture by Sphamandla Gumede



Pictured: Top Achiever Sizwe Maguni, being hooded by Zakhele Gumede, Deputy Registrar: Student Administration.

was prepared. This strong sense of discipline also ensured that he obtained seven distinctions when he matriculated.

His excellent academic performance however masks a tough life. "I've been through a lot. In 1996, my parents both died and I was left with my grandmother who raised me. While I was in matric, my maternal aunt, whom I was extremely close to, passed away the day before a Geography exam. I however managed to pass that paper, which consisted of two papers on the same day because I had studied hard during the

entire year," said Maguni, who also attributed his latest academic feat to his late aunt's plea for him to work hard towards getting an education two days before her passing as well as his former high school's teachers constant support and encouragement.

"They (his teachers) have always believed in me. They kept in constant contact with me during my studies at university and supported me with finances as I was severely lacking in that area. I will never forget what they did for me and I thank them for their love and support," said Maguni.

He also attributed his academic success to his study group which was formed during his first year of study.

"All of us in the group were in our first year of study when it was formed and we are all graduating during the same session. There were about nine of us in the group and we supported each other a lot," he said.

Maguni, who is now a teacher at a school in Johannesburg, celebrated his achievement by throwing a party and spoiling his grandmother with some retail therapy.

Strong Self-discipline Earns Bongekile Top Achiever Award

SINEGUGU NDLOVU

Every day without fail after her lectures, Bongekile Gloria Mashaba, 22, Batchelor of Nursing graduand at the University of Zululand (UNIZULU), would dedicate time towards studying what she had learned during the day so that she remained on track with her studies.

It would be this strong discipline and dedication that would lead her to becoming one of the Top Achievers in her Faculty (of Science and Agriculture) during the UNIZULU Graduation Ceremonies which kicked off on Monday, 8 May 2017, ending on Friday,

Picture by Sphamandla Gumede



Pictured: Bongekile Gloria Mashaba being hooded by Ernest Doeseb, Deputy Registrar: Enrolment Management, Enrolment Management at UNIZULU.

12 May 2017. "I studied every day after lectures and dedicated three hours during exams to catch up," said Mashaba who also achieved two distinctions;

four Bs and one C on her matric results.

Mashaba, who now works as a nurse at a Hospital in Jozini, plans on furthering her studies next year. "I'm planning on enrolling for a degree in Education and Management next year (2018). My aspiration is to be the sister in charge (at a ward) or a lecturer," she said.

Mashaba advised other students to focus on their studies. "Don't just study for the sake of it. Give yourself time to focus on your studies.

Have fun, but that should not be more important than your studies", said Mashaba.

UNIZULU Graduation by Numbers

SINEGUGU NDLOVU

A total of 4338 students graduated at UNIZULU during its May Graduation Ceremonies which kicked off on Monday, 8 May 2017, ending on Friday, 12 May 2017.

The graduation ceremonies were held at the University's King Bhhekuzulu Hall, KwaDlangezwa Campus, KwaDlangezwa.

The graduation ceremonies enjoyed an array of distinguished and established guest speakers such as Dr Namhla Sotuku, Director: Early

Childhood Development Centre at the University of Fort Hare; Professor Maureen Robinson from the Department of Curriculum Studies, Stellenbosch University; Professor Moeketsi Letseka, Professor of Philosophy of Education: University of South Africa (UNISA) College of Education and Editor in Chief: Journal Africa Education Review; Professor Eugene Cloete, Vice Rector: Research and Innovation, University of Stellenbosch; Yaa Ashantewaa K. Archer-Ngidi, Founder/Director:

Institute of Afrikology at the Durban University of Technology; Professor Kwesi Kwaa Prah, Founder and Director of the Centre for Advanced Studies of African Society (CASAS); Dr Nthabiseng Motsemme, Academic Director: National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (HIHSS) and Madam Justice Mohini Moodley, Judge: High Court of South Africa, KwaZulu-Natal Division.

A total of 32 students graduated with their PhD degrees, 84 with

their Master's degrees, 359 with their Honours degrees, 10 with their Post Graduate Diplomas (PGD), 424 with their Postgraduate Certificates (PGC) and 3429 with their undergraduate qualifications.

A total of 1669 students graduated from the Faculty of Education, 599 graduated from the Faculty of Science and Agriculture, 1229 graduated from the Faculty of Arts and 841 graduated from the Faculty of Commerce, Administration and Law.

Anele's Mother Helps Propel Her to Academic Success

SINEGUGU NDLOVU

A study at the Lancaster University Management School, United Kingdom, found that maternal influence is the leading factor over whether children stayed on at school and went to study at university.

The study, co-authored by Professor Ian Walker, found that this link is strongest between mothers and daughters, and these findings could not be more truthful for University of Zululand graduand, Anele Pearl Caluza, 24, who was named as a Top Achiever during her graduation on Wednesday, 09 May 2017 during the University of Zululand's (UNIZULU) Faculty of Arts graduation ceremony. Caluza obtained a Diploma: Public Relations Management.

She formed part of 1229 students who graduated from the Faculty of Arts during its graduation ceremony this year (2017). In total, 4338 graduated from UNIZULU this year.

Of that number, 1669 students graduated from the Faculty of Education, 599 students graduated from the Faculty of Science and Agriculture, 1229 students graduated from the Faculty of Arts and 841 students graduated from the Faculty of Commerce, Administration and Law.



Pictured: UNIZULU Arts Faculty Top Achiever, Anele Pearl Caluza (middle), who graduated with her Diploma in Public Relations Management during the University's Graduation Ceremonies. Here, she is being presented with a laptop given to all Top Achievers by Professor Gregory Kamwendo, Arts Faculty Dean, and Professor Xoliswa Mtose, UNIZULU Vice-Chancellor.

"I was raised by a single mother who worked hard to ensure that I had everything I needed and we never felt the emotional gap of not having a father. I did face some challenges during my studies but my mom has always pushed me to my full potential. My mother prayed for me and was my rock," said Caluza.

She said while she worked hard throughout her diploma studies, she did not expect to be one of the Top Achievers in her Faculty. "I faced during a challenge during my second year in one of the modules (Research Methodology) which had

so much work and was practical and at the time, I was used to theoretical work. Although it was hard, I managed to pass it with a distinction. In fact, I passed all my modules throughout my diploma studies with distinctions," said Caluza who added, "I wouldn't say I'm smart. I am simply a hard worker".

Caluza is currently doing her Bachelor of Technology in Public Relations Management. Asked how she and her family planned to celebrate such a huge feat, she said she had a feeling that her family was planning "something huge".

She advised other young

people and students to never believe, or let other people tell them that something is not possible.

"When I got to university, I was told that my aspiration of passing all my subjects with flying colours was not possible. This prompted me to want to prove all the naysayers wrong and I did just that. I studied hard during my diploma studies.

Before lectures, I would study the section we would learn that day and after lectures, would also study more. I would dedicate at least three hours a day outside lectures towards studying. I never went to bed without studying," she said.

Victory for Sthandiwe After Setting Herself High Expectations

SINEGUGU NDLOVU

Sthandiwe Sikhulile Zulu, 22, achieved an 81% on her LLB degree at the University of Zululand (UNIZULU). While this is a massive feat, she was however not satisfied with her performance as she was hoping for an average mark of at least 90%.

Zulu, who comes from Dundee, Northern KwaZulu-Natal, graduated with her LLB degree during the graduation ceremony of the University's Faculty of Commerce, Administration and Law. The ceremony formed part of the UNIZULU Graduation Ceremonies 2017. While she may have not been satisfied with her performance, she was named one of the Five Top Achievers in her Faculty.

"I'm happy (about my average mark) but I didn't do as well as I had hoped I would," said a somewhat gloomy sounding Zulu. "My goal was to get a final mark in the region of 90% but I'm still happy because not everyone can get the mark that I got," she said.

Asked where her dissatisfaction with her mark stems from, she said she grew up in a household where

her father placed high expectations on her and her siblings. The fact that she was a teenage mother also propelled her to work harder in order to restore her family's faith in her.

"Growing up, we had to meet certain expectations so maybe that's why I'm hard on myself and it was our father who mainly placed those expectations on us. A 60% mark was basically considered a fail, but he didn't do this in a bad or cruel manner, he simply motivated us and always reminded us that he expects nothing but the best from us," said Zulu, adding that she worked extremely hard during her degree studies.

"Even my friends can attest to that. We helped each other a lot to unpack the content we had learned in class. Even during our spare time, we spoke about our school work. We had 'sessions' as we called them where we would meet; without books, and discuss what we had learned in class," said Zulu.

While she said she did not face massive challenges that threatened to derail her dreams and studies, her father at some point losing his job and her mother being unemployed somewhat created financial troubles



Pictured: Sthandiwe Sikhulile Zulu

during first year of study. However, her excellent academic performance and her father's continued efforts to provide for her and her family would result in her qualifying to enter second year and being awarded with study bursaries at the end of her first year studies.

She urged other young people to never allow their mistakes define them. "The fact that you made mistakes along the way should never define you. The worst mistake you can make is to stop trying. Always do your best and give it your all," she said.

#GradInPictures



#GradInPictures



Flying the UNIZULU Flag High in America

MMeet Siphelele “Titi” Siyaya, 23-year-old UNIZULU Hydrology graduand who is currently serving her internship in Colorado, United States. The state, situated in the western part of the country, has a diverse landscape of arid desert, river canyons and snow-covered Rocky Mountains, which are partly protected.

#tag’s **Sphamandla Gumede** caught up with the young lady to find out more about her internship and life in the USA. This is what she had to say:

Sphamandla: Tell us about what you are currently doing in America?

Siphelele: I’m currently working for a nonprofit organisation in Castle Rock, Colorado, in line with what I’ve trained for in hydrology. I was actually meant to have begun training to further my studies but have not as yet owing to the fact that I am yet to receive my certificate of qualification to prove that I’ve completed my degree. I should be registering for this in the fall (Springtime in South Africa) or in the 2018 academic year. I’m also hoping to save enough money to enrol for an international internship in London or Colombia which will give me comprehensive work experience and industry experience.

Sphamandla: Tell us about yourself? Who is Siphelele?

Siphelele: I was born in Nongoma but grew up in Mtubatuba. I am one of 3 children and was raised in a

spiritual home with Godly principles. My faith in God that has kept me going. I am a very persistent, driven young woman. I admire resilience and believe in myself first.

Sphamandla: Tell us about your expectations of the US and whether they were met?

Siphelele: My expectations were so high, especially with the way the media portrays America. But I must say America is great. It’s fast paced. The lifestyle is different compared to what I’m used to. Everything here is so advanced technology wise. But what I really like where I live, besides the beautiful mountains of Colorado, is the way they take care of the environment. People here are so conscious of the environment, their waste management strategies (are excellent).

Sphamandla: Have you adjusted to your new environment yet?

Siphelele: Adjusting to the environment was not so difficult. My first few days were a bit challenging in terms of adapting to the time differences. Because of the major differences in altitudes, I was finding it difficult to keep hydrated. My skin suddenly became drier. I’m still getting used to driving on the right side of the road, which is totally confusing at first. People here really enjoy every moment. They value time with family and because Colorado has a diverse landscape of arid deserts and beautiful mountains, people here enjoy outdoor activities like camping, hiking, skiing and just being on the

mountains. Colorado also experiences all four seasons and I can’t wait to experience snow for the first time in my life.

Sphamandla: How did you feel before departure? Were you nervous?

Siphelele: I was numb. I think somehow it had not really clicked that I’m really leaving. But on the day of the departure, I was overwhelmed by mixed emotions. I was happy that I’m going to the US (for the first time) but was also sad that I’m leaving my family and I was nervous about what awaits. But God has guided me through.

Sphamandla: Is there anything you’d like to add?

Siphelele: I’d like to thank all my lecturers from the Hydrology and Geography

departments at UNIZULU. Mostly, I’d like to thank the Hydrology Department. I’d probably not be where I am today if it weren’t for this department. It shaped me into the person I wanted to become. Thank you to UNIZULU for opening your doors to me; my friends for all those sleepless nights of studying; my family and God the Almighty. Believe in yourself. Listen first to your heart above all the other voices. You only have this life to pursue your dreams. Don’t expect your journey to be smooth, embrace the daily challenges. If you want something, go after it. And if you fail, get back up and let God direct you to the right path. Lastly, be willing to sweat and tackle whatever distractions the world puts in front of you.



Grooming Our Students to be Upstanding Citizens

SINEGUGU NDLOVU

As part of its mission to effectively and efficiently provide integrated services aimed at creating a learning environment underpinned by safety, good health and wellness; the UNIZULU Student Services Department recently hosted the Zazi and Brothers for Life projects.

ZAZI, which focuses on female students, was launched in May 2017 with the theme: Know your strength while Brothers for Life, which focuses on male students, was also launched in May 2017 with the theme: Manhood.

The launch of the two projects followed the launch of the Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Dialogue to address issues highlighted during the SGBV dialogue.

The two campaigns were attended by students from the KwaDlangezwa and Richards Bay campuses. ZAZI enjoyed an array of speakers; the main being Zanele Mbokazi-Nkambule, well known socialite and business woman, who motivated female students about

taking care of themselves as well as the importance of making good decisions by valuing themselves. Mbokazi-Nkambule also highlighted the importance for the female students to be able to take care of themselves and be assertive, not allowing others to put undue pressure on them.

The students also listened to talks that addressed human trafficking as well as HIV/AIDS. DramaAide (Drama in AIDS Education) also conducted a stage play that addressed issues around SGBV.

Nhlanhla Mtaka, political scientist and founder of Ingabadi Group, was the guest speaker at the Brothers for Life event.

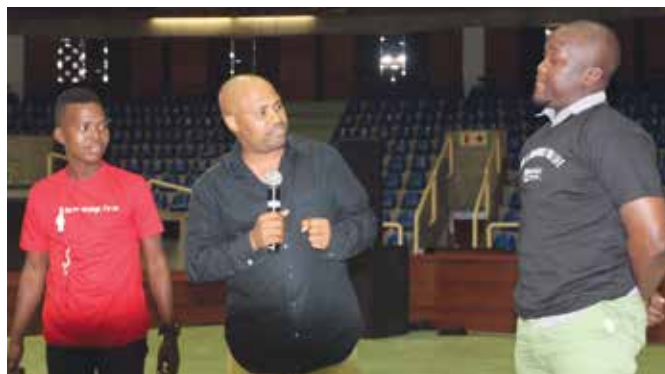
He motivated the male students on manhood, asking the question, What is a man?, before saying, “a man is a man by his good actions”. “Being educated doesn’t make you a man, but the way you handle yourself around society and your actions towards the opposite sex make you a man,” he said. Mtaka also motivated those that attended the session to be an example in society as they had acquired valuable knowledge.



Entertainment during the Brothers for Life initiative launch.



UNIZULU Dean of Students Sibusiso Mchunu with Zanele Mbokazi at the Zazi launch.



Guest speaker Nhlanhla Mtaka engages with male students during his talk at the Brothers for Life initiative launch.



Entertainment during the Zazi initiative launch.

UNIZULU Debating Team Represents Institution at Universities Debating Championships

NALEDI HLEFANE

The UNIZULU Debating Union was formed only in May 2017 but within two months of its establishment, it had started “arguing” with the “big boys” in the debating game, participating in the prestigious South African National Universities Debating Championships (SANUDC) this month (July 2017).

A week-long affair, SANUDC took place at the University of Johannesburg (UJ) Soweto Campus and it was attended by 46 campuses of various universities in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

#tag spoke to Izibusiso Ngubane, the head of the UNIZULU Debating Union who led the group of 11 who partook in the championships. Three members of each campus were selected to become adjudicators while the remaining eight were further divided into four smaller groups who then competed against other groups.

The competition was no walk in the park, Ngubane admitted. With topics having being impromptu and teams given only 15 minutes to prepare before each round, debating prowess and knowledge of current affairs proved vital for the debaters. The experience was new for the UNIZULU team but Ngubane said the collective was “pumped up”



Pictured from left to right: Thandokazi Bangani, Izibusiso Ngubane, Busiswa Mkhize, Mduduzi Mnqayi, Vusumuzi Khumalo, Sibongakonke Mkhize, Mbuso Gcwensa, Sandiso Ncube and Nothando Khuzwayo.

nonetheless and focused on winning the R50 000 cash prize.

The Union eventually made it to round nine, which was before the quarter finals. While this was not its desired outcome, having represented the institution alone was something the team was proud of, he said.

Speaking on behalf of the UNIZULU Student Services Department (SSD), Societies Administrator Musa Mpanza expressed great pride in the team’s performance saying “it did very well for a first attempt”. “Through participating in this year’s championships, we’ve learnt the dos and don’ts so we are hoping to conquer next year,” Mpanza added.

Moving forward, Ngubane said he will ensure to organise ongoing trainings for the Union so that it can participate even in international debating championships and become a “strong world competitor”.

Background on the UNIZULU Debating Union

The Union was established through the efforts of Students Services Department which sought to put the University on the mark in terms of debating. The Department then made a call to all aspirant student debaters at both the KwaDlangezwa and Richards Bay campuses; the response of which was enormous. Over 70 students

from various faculties and departments showed interest but the number was eventually filtered down to 41 students who now make up the official UNIZULU Debating Union.

With a union in existence, SSD saw it possible for the newly formed team to participate in SANUDC but this meant that it had to undergo intense training in preparation for this. A camp was thus organised in June this year (2017) where students went head-to-head in different debating rounds which were facilitated by two external debating experts. At the end of the camp, the strongest 11 members were chosen to represent the institution at the championships.

Lindokuhle Mgedezi: A Rising Star

NALEDI HLEFANE

At first glance, Lindokuhle Mgedezi is likely to strike one as just another student from campus.

However, given the platform to sing, trust and believe, this third-year Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) student from Gcilima in Margate, KwaZulu-Natal South Coast, can teach you a thing or two about belting out a note!

His voice is a cross between that of The Soil's Ntsika Ngxanga and the melodic afro pop duo Soul Kulture. But make no mistake, his sound is authentic! In fact, he is set on bringing a completely new dimension to the music industry- a fusion of soul, afro pop and RnB he calls "Mzansi Trap Soul".

Music captured this vibrant young man's heart while he was still a child but it was only in 2013 that he started singing professionally. He was part of a group which had regular performances at Ushaka Marine World in Durban, where Mgedezi would later win the "Search for The Stars" competition.

He never writes songs so he swears by the recorder on his phone. This comes in especially handy when melodies come to him at odd times. It seems trite to say, but this budding musician eats, sleeps and breathes music, and it's therefore not surprising that

he snatched first prize in the King Cetshwayo Talent Golden Search earlier this year (2017). Run by and within the King Cetshwayo District Municipality, the competition seeks to identify and nurture raw talent.

Contestants stood a chance to get a stint with Durban recording label Afrotainment where two songs would be produced, released and promoted, followed by a concert at UNIZULU's King Bhekuzulu Hall to officially launch the winner. This is undoubtedly every up-and-coming artist's dream.

"The competition was stiff but somehow I managed to come up top," a modest Mgedezi says.

His first single Awusekho was released in May and has

received airplay on Ukhozi fm and Gagasi fm. It is also available for download on iTunes (search for Lindo- Awusekho) where, according to the rising artist, it has been doing very well. The downloads have increased further after Mgedezi performed at Afrotainment's Fact Durban Rocks concert, one of the highly-anticipated after-parties of the annual Vodacom Durban July.

That experience, according to him, was surreal. Being in the presence of renowned artists such as DJ Cleo and performing to a receptive crowd was awesome. Of course, the screams let out by some of the ladies were greatly appreciated too, he quipped.

But what does Mgedezi have to offer that the

many artists out there aren't already offering? "Originality is one," he says. "I also believe that because music is a medium of communication, it has to have a strong message. Now this is what I intend to achieve through my lyrics. Mine are messages of motivation and love. I want to create music that my dad can listen to without taking any offense to the language used, but at the same time, the music has to appeal to the younger generation," he says.

When asked about who he would love to work with in the industry right now, Mgedezi is quick to mention Nasty C and Sjava.

As to how Mgedezi will juggle music and teaching, he is unsure, but he seems prepared to wear both hats for now.



Pictured: Lindokuhle Mgedezi. Also pictured is Lindokuhle (middle) with artist DJ Cleo (left) and Phantom Steeze (right) Fact Durban Rocks concert, one of the highly-anticipated after-parties of the annual Vodacom Durban July.

TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTRE FOR ACADEMIC READING AND WRITING

The Writing Centre

The Writing Centre falls within the Teaching and Learning Unit and strives to be responsive to the diverse needs of the students at the University of Zululand. The Writing Centre, in its quest to render excellent service, upholds these values:

- Student-Centeredness
- Responsiveness
- Accessibility
- Service-excellence

The Writing Centre Aims to help students to use writing as a means to become effective learners in the University environment.

This is done through:

- Structured workshops
- Small group consultation sessions
- Class presentations
- Individual consultations

Student assistance is provided in the form of:

Aims to help students to use writing as a means to become effective learners in the University environment.

This is done through:

- Academic reading
- Introduction to academic writing: Assignments, research proposals
- Referencing, avoiding plagiarism, paraphrasing, summarising and quoting
- The structure of an argument: Cogence, cohesion, coherence
- The writing process
- Topic analysis
- Understand assignment instructions
- Walk-in queries (Individual or group)

The main Writing Centre is situated at DH5 and services the two large faculties namely the Faculty of Education as well as the Faculty of Arts.

There are three Satellite Writing Centres based at:

- SC 108 in the Faculty of Science and Agriculture
- Commerce, Administration and Law
- Richards Bay campus

OPERATING HOURS: Weekdays 07H30 to 16H00.



Group Consultation



One on one consultation



Students can also make individual appointments.

For further information contact:

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**UNIVERSITY OF
ZULULAND**

RESTRUCTURED FOR RELEVANCE

Loving all things Maskandi

SPHAMANDLA GUMEDE

Born and bred in Isilutshana, Nquthu, northern KwaZulu-Natal, Lungisani Mbatha, a UNIZULU B.Ed (specialising in English and Social Sciences) student has dreams of one day becoming a heavyweight in the Maskandi musical genre.

Maskandi is a genre of South African Zulu folk music which is widely popular in the country. So popular in fact that Maskandi musician OMroza's track: *Van Damme* became the SABC's 2016 Song of the Year.

Lungisani's love for Maskandi can be traced back to his childhood, although at first he never considered his affection for the genre an actual talent.

"My talent started to flourish when I was able to sing and play the guitar at same time. Due to pressure from my fans who demanded more music from me after having a chance to watch me whilst performing on stage, I recorded an album in 2016," he said. The album comprises of 13 tracks, of which most of the songs were requested by his fans after having had watched him performing on stage.

Titled: *Ngingakukhohlwa Konke*, he said this album is dedicated to his mother who has been his pillar of strength.



Pictured: Aspiring Maskandi superstar, Lungisani Mbatha.

"My father passed away when I was young and I was raised by my mother who also happens to be the bread winner in my family of seven. Life was never easy for us. We went through lot of hardships which also forced me to take a gap year in 2013. I enrolled at UNIZULU in 2014 and I went through so much stress with regards to financial issues. My first year was very difficult without enough cash for varsity and I relied mostly on my siblings who supported my studies. I am grateful for their support," he said.

To date, Mbatha has performed in numerous musical events, mostly those that took place at UNIZULU. He has shared the stage with famous artist such as David Simelane who is popularly known for his song: *Zamalek*.

He has also been interviewed by a number of radio stations such as Ukhozi FM, Izwi loMzansi, Zululand FM and Rise FM; three of them currently playing his music. In May this year (2017), he had an interview with 1KZN TV's *UGUBHU LWAMI* show which focuses on Maskandi music. The show, so said Lungisani, marketed him well.

Speaking of his aspirations, Lungisani sees himself performing at big events across the world stage.



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