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9 June 2016

‘Own your story’ says BCom graduate Rosy Mudzanani

Despite living through many hardships while growing up in Limpopo, including being orphaned at seven and losing her only sister in her final year of study, Rosy Mudzanani completed her Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) degree in economics and finance at the University Cape Town (UCT) at the end of 2015.

She is currently doing her BCom honours in financial analysis and portfolio management at UCT.

“Last year in March, my sister passed away ... Last year was also my final year, but I told myself that I have to graduate, because I have a lot of people who are looking up to me,” says Rosy. “But I’m grateful for all the challenges that I went through because I would never be where I am today if it was easy. If it was easy, you would never be thankful.”

Please click [here](#) for more on this [story](#). Credit Chido Mbambe for the story.

Success against the odds for LLB graduate

Tahne Thomas has successfully balanced raising a young child, a part-time job and full-time legal studies at University of Cape Town (UCT). This year she is employed as a candidate attorney at a commercial law firm. Her positive outlook on life, despite the odds stacked against her, has helped her to achieve her goals.

The 24-year-old was born and bred in Cape Town. She fell pregnant at the age of 16 with her then long-time boyfriend and her mom gave her an ultimatum, “You can have the child but you have to go back to school.”

Michelle Poggenpoel, Tahne’s mother, says, “As a parent, you know your child’s potential. If you’re prepared to go that extra mile and let her do whatever she wants to do, support her in whatever she wants to do, you won’t be sorry at the end of the day.”

Please click [here](#) for more on this [story](#). Credit Chido Mbambe for the story.

Architecture with a social conscience

Among the June graduates is architectural master's student Ashleigh Killa, who has teamed up with fellow UCT alumni in order to use their skills in a way that will benefit South African society as a whole.

Ashleigh's colleagues are Georgina Campbell, a mechanical engineer who also has a master's in sustainable environmental design, and Max Melvill, a fellow architecture master's student. The design studio they've formed is called MAAK, and it focuses on "architecture with a social conscience".

As a start-up, they are working out of a home in Tamboerskloof and have only a handful of clients, but theirs is a very clear vision of the kind of work they wish to do.

"Freed from the confines of the drawing board and the limits of a computer screen, the projects we are involved in not only require an intention and a vision, but similarly demand an active and critical engagement with all of the tangible and sensory qualities of what makes things real," they say in their company profile.

"In this light, working with individuals and communities, MAAK sees architecture not only as a means to positive urban development and community upliftment, but similarly as a mode for education, design research and progressive thinking."

Please click [here](#) for more on this [story](#). Credit Andrea Weiss for the story.

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Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

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