



# UNIVEN Alumni FIRST QUARTER 2016 NEWS

## All people have the right to quality healthcare

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All people in South Africa have the right to good and quality healthcare.

Where these rights are violated, people have a right to complain to the Health Professions Council of South Africa. The health professionals concerned are registered with this body. The council ombudsman protects the general public against health care professionals and at the same time mediates and arbitrates between a patient and a health professional to help them find an amicable solution.

For Dr Munyadziwa Albert Kwinda, who is also a pastor, being an ombudsman does not mean punishing colleagues but helping them to help patients in a professional way.

"I enjoy doing my work because it brings smiles to both parties as I look at the matter without prejudice. My advice to fellow doctors and other health professionals is that they should seek to gain more knowledge on ethics and health law, which will enable them to serve patients even better," says Kwinda.

"One of the main challenges we face in

our daily task, is lack of information from the public or ignorance about their benefit packages with medical schemes, especially where there are exclusions. After consultation patients may find that they owe a huge sum of money which they have to pay out of their pockets. Based on the complaints received we have started to alert members of the public about matters of interest such as authorisation from a medical aid - what is covered and not covered and co-payments."

Kwinda, who was born in the rural Guyuni village, obtained a BSc in Botany and Zoology at the University of Venda in 1995. He then completed an MBChB degree at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in 2002.

He proceeded to Medunsa where he obtained a Masters of Medicine, specialising in Family Medicine in 2011. Recently he completed his second masters of Science in medicine at Wits University, specialising in Bioethics and Health Law. This year he received funding for a PhD in Bioethics and Health Law, which will be studied at Wits.

"When I want to see patients I have always been pulled back to administrative and managerial duties by the system," says Kwinda.

He spent eight years – from 2004 to 2011 – as a Senior Medical Superintendent at the Donald Frazer Hospital before joining Tshildzini Hospital as Medical Specialist in Family Medicine in 2012. The member of the Executive Council of Health in Limpopo at the time, Dr Norman Mabaso, appointed him to manage the national health insurance pilot project for the Vhembe District until 2014. Kwinda has been the Ombudsman at the Health Professions Council of South Africa since 2014.

Kwinda is well-known in the medical profession for his leadership, having served in the different structures of the South African medical association and the Health Professions Council of South Africa. Here he served as the Vice-Chairperson for the Medical and Dental Professions Board. He is a family man, pastor and well-known community builder.

## President Ndou and his team count their achievements

Mashudu Ramaleba - [alumni@univen.ac.za](mailto:alumni@univen.ac.za)

"Upon assuming office last year, we made an undertaking to promote the interests of our alma mater and become ambassadors of our prestigious institution," said Univen's Convocation President, Levy Ndou. Speaking after one year in office, the Executive Committee of Convocation, led by Ndou, reported back at the Annual General Meeting held at Univen.

"Indeed in our various roles in Convocation Exco, on Council and its subcommittees, we are continuing on a positive path where our predecessors have left and have made significant progress, particularly in driving our strategic plan.

"On the #feesmustfall campaign, Convocation

supports the demands of students for affordable higher education in South Africa. We commend the Univen leadership for handling the situation well, to a point where students ended writing their final examinations."

He highlighted the launch of alumni chapters, the publication of the first newsletter for alumni, fundraising for students' awards and the social responsibility fund as well as an appreciation to the donors who continue to support convocation activities.

"It is historic that in its 33 years of existence, Univen has internationalised its Convocation and alumni through the launch of a chapter on foreign soil, the Zimbabwe international alumni chapter. Minister Christopher

Mushohwe of Zimbabwe praised Univen as it is the first chapter launched in that country by a South African university.

"Another significant milestone is the publication of the Univen Alumni News, which is the first publication for alumni with its focus on the achievements and successes of alumni."

Mr Lufuno Mudzanani encouraged alumni to support the Social Responsibility Fund which was launched in April. The fund assists Univen's financially needy students who are academically talented. After Ms Salome Makgoka presented the constitution, it was debated and adopted as a working document. It can be amended at any extraordinary meeting or Annual General Meeting if a

motion has been submitted to the University Registrar 28 days before such a meeting.

Univen's Registrar, Prof Edward Nesamvuni, Convocation and Alumni members as well as representatives of chapters from Hazyview, Waterberg and Zimbabwe attended.

It was Ndou's first year in office as the President of Convocation and a chance to assess how far have they progressed with the implementation of the five-year Convocation and Alumni strategic plan and in particular the operational plan. The gathering was concluded with a buffet lunch, networking among alumni and a photo session.

**A dedicated team.**



"We have made significant progress, particularly in driving our strategic plan" - Ndou.





# Black is not the skin but a mindset – new Black Lawyers Association president

Nobuhle Mhlongo

**"Black is not the skin but a mindset,"** says the newly elected President of the Black Lawyers Association of South Africa, Lutendo Sigogo.

"Membership of the association is open to all lawyers and aspirant lawyers, irrespective of race, color, gender or creed, provided they subscribe to and abide by the constitution, policies and principles of the organisation. Members participate in the programmes to create a non-racial, non-sexist judicial system and society at large.

"For graduates to get jobs and for women to be given chances to practice law and obtain senior or higher positions in the profession, the association acts as mouthpiece of the vulnerable people in society," said Sigogo.

He spoke at the Black Lawyers Association's Annual General Meeting in Johannesburg.

Sigogo holds a BProc and Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from the University of Venda, was the best LLB student, first candidate attorney and was one of the founding fathers of Univen Radio, together with Chief Mmbangiseni Nthumeni Masia of the Masia tribe.

His election comes in the wake of his outstanding leadership record of more than eight years. Sigogo was the treasurer of the Limpopo Black Lawyers in 2007, secretary of the Limpopo Black Lawyers Association in 2009, National Deputy Secretary in 2011 and National General Secretary in 2013.

Mashudu Kutama, a high court litigator with BProc and LLB degrees from Univen, was elected Deputy President of the association.

The Annual General Meeting was attended by the Judge President of the South and North Gauteng Division of the High Court of South Africa, Dustan Mlambo, Judge President of the Limpopo High Court Division, Justice JP Makgoba, Tax Ombudsman Judge Bernard Ngoepe, Black Lawyers Association international associates and National Bar Association representatives Leroy Wilson, Herbert Moreira-Brown and Donald Watson. More than 400 delegates of the Black Lawyers Association branches across South Africa also attended.



**"Membership is open, irrespective of race, colour, gender or creed" – Sigogo.**

# Prof Muronga appointed Dean of the Faculty of Science

Kwena Montsha and Nobuhle Mhlongo

The Director of the University of Johannesburg's Soweto Science centre, Prof Azwinndini Muronga, has been appointed as the new Dean of the Faculty of Science at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

He was recently elected as President of the South African Institute of Physics.

Muronga, who holds a BSc degree in Mathematics and Science from the University of Venda, is also the Chairperson of the Univen Gauteng Alumni Chapter.

"I am pleased and honoured to have joined a new community of scholars and students. Some of my major tasks include taking the faculty to new heights, promoting excellence in teaching and research and tackling the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality through science.

"I hope to create a platform of dialogue in challenging aspects such as relevance and alignment of the faculty goals to the national development plan. Furthermore, I trust that I can promote science education to local communities, including secondary school learners as well as assisting undergraduate students to complete their studies in record time," says Muronga.

One of his greatest moments at his alma mater was his delivery of a public lecture on 'Einstein Centenary of General Relativity and 2015 International Year of Light' which was aimed at inspiring the new generation to study science through light.

Albert Einstein's special theory of general relativity states that relative to who is watching, space and time are transformed near the speed of light, distances appear to stretch and clocks tick more slowly. He challenged the way the world thought about gravity, as well as Sir Isaac Newton himself, by describing gravity as the warping of space-time, not a force acting at a distance.

Muronga, a theoretical physicist, describes Einstein, who in 1919 was awarded the Nobel Prize for his services to theoretical physics, especially for his discovery of the law of photo electric effect, as his role model.

In 1919, an astronomer from America went to the west coast of Africa to prove the theory of Albert Einstein. Africa was found to be the place that has a solar eclipse to prove his theory.

In the theory of Einstein, light was seen as central to the structure of space and time -hence the celebration of 100 years of Einstein's theory and the international year of light in 2015.

"Light is everywhere, allows us to go about our daily activities and provides us with entertainment, safety and security, access to education, technological advancements and healthcare."

Muronga continues to inspire millions of young South Africans through his roadshows and science radio programmes.

# Alumni fly Univen flag in Zimbabwe

Mashudu Ramaleba - alumni@univen.ac.za

It was on Saturday afternoon of 3 October 2015 at the Cresta Jameson Hotel in Harare when large numbers joined to see the launch of a Univen alumni chapter outside the borders of South Africa – the Zimbabwe International Alumni Chapter.

Guests included Univen alumni from various provinces of Zimbabwe, the Zimbabwean Minister of Information, Media and Broadcasting Services, Univen's Vice

Chancellor and Principal, Prof Peter Mbat, Christopher Mushohwe, the President of the Univen Concocation, Levy Ndou and member of the executive of Convocation, Khathutshelo Razwiedani. Other guests included the Pro-Vice Chancellor at the Women University in Africa, Prof Nherera, the representative of the South African embassy, Ashwin Pienaar and representatives of the family of the late former Student Representative Council President, Phibeon Munyoro.

It was truly Zimbabwean with the event opened with Simudzai Mureza Wedu WeZimbabwe, a Shona version of the national anthem "blessed be the land of Zimbabwe, the land of our fathers bestowed upon us all from Zambezi to Limpopo".

"Alumni should play a role in repositioning Univen to be among the top five South African Universities by 2030," said Mbat.

"This is being done through resource mobilisation, marketing and being brand ambassadors. After 33 years of Univen's existence, alumni can no longer stretch their hands for help from their mother who nourished them but they can ask as to how and when they can give to their alma mater. You should build a strong alumni chapter as a strong alumni is fundamental to the long term sustainability of any leading university," he said.

"Univen is the first South African university to launch an alumni chapter on Zimbabwean soil," said Mushohwe.

"Set up a student revolving fund, at least \$10 per alumni per month to help other less privileged students who are intellectually gifted, to realise their dreams of a better life."

During discussions alumni, mostly from disadvantaged rural areas, expressed nostalgia for Univen and wished to return back to enroll for postgraduate studies.

A lawyer, Munyarazi Mugomeza, was elected as chairperson of the chapter.



**Taking Univen beyond the South African borders – the dedicated first exco.**

Front from left - Shadreck Muchaku, Head of Events and Marketing, Munyaradzi Mugomeza, Chairperson, Tafadzwa Mandaza, Deputy Chairperson, Lucia Chimhau, Secretary, Lindiwe Munatsi, Deputy Secretary and Greation Nyevera, Treasurer. Back from left - Able Mateta, Head of Communications, Esirina Mupfudze, Head of Special Projects and Community Outreach, Mambanga Pfungwa, Head of Research and Innovation, Thembeni Matshudu, Head of Fundraising and Raymond Nyarugwe, Head of Membership and Recruitment.



# Flying colours for Justice Mudau in Gauteng High Court Division

Mashudu Ramaleba - alumni@univen.ac.za

*"I strive to dispense justice without fear, favour or prejudice in conformity with the spirit and purport of my affirmation of office."*

Thinking about the future and planning for what you want to be when you grow up is undoubtedly influenced by the living conditions of the time, friends and the influence of adult members of the community who lead admirable lives.

"Growing up in a family with small businesses which at some point were robbed and the robbers later acquitted, made me rethink my earlier career to study teaching," says Justice Thifhelimbilu Phanuel Mudau.

Mudau was recently appointed as a judge in the Gauteng High Court Division.

"The influence of my friends who were ahead of me and the courage with which community leaders, including faith-based leaders, fought the repressive and brutal system of government at the time, led me to study law.

"The family businesses were never an excuse for me not to be like any other village boy who looks after cattle and goats, a prerequisite for me to earn my dinner in the evening. Working in the family businesses after school and herding the flock, instilled in me a culture of hard work, a philosophy which my late father believed in."

His hard work and dedication secured his appointment by President Jacob Zuma, after a recommendation by the Judicial Services Commission.

Mudau grew up in the village of Tshisaulu where he attended local schools until he matriculated at Khwephva High School in 1982, with a distinction in History.

"My late father was such a great community leader who initiated the building of many schools and churches in the local community and played a major role in school governance. This also goes for my hardworking teachers and those who were in the forefront in our quest for democracy – the role models I have always admired."

Mudau obtained a BJuris and an LLB from Univen, followed by an LLM in International Law from RAU. He served as a magistrate, clerk of the court, interpreter, complaints and dispute resolution officer, maintenance officer and later as regional court magistrate.

"The greatest achievement in my judicial career is being appointed as judge of the High Court. This is a silent tribute to my overall contribution to the administration of justice over the years. It is the ultimate theatre of dreams for any legal practitioner worth his or her salt. This is the stage where laws are made, interpreted and our jurisprudence developed. A judge must make courageous, even unpopular decisions. Justice is not a popularity contest. Competence, integrity and diligence and nothing less, are prerequisites

to the due performance of judicial office," says Mudau.

"To take up the office of a judge of the High Court brings with it enormous responsibilities. I fully realise the duties and responsibilities of the office to which I have been appointed. I accepted the appointment with pride and a full heart. The confidence in me expressed by this appointment is equally humbling. The basic principle of my vocation is that everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by a fair and impartial court in the determination of rights and obligations.

"I strive to dispense justice without fear, favour or prejudice in conformity with the spirit and purport of my affirmation of office.

"I am mindful of the founding provisions with regard to human dignity, the achievement of equality, the advancement of human rights and freedom as well as the supremacy of the Constitution and the Rule of Law and other values as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic. It shall be my earnest endeavour to be a capable, conscientious and humble judge. I will remain on this fine course so ably chartered and faithfully followed by the majority if not all of my predecessors since the dawn of our democracy, and those who valued human rights and freedom over the years."

## SRC President outlines vision for 2016

Noxolo Nkuna and Nyiko Maringa

Gender equality and women empowerment seem to have found expression in Univen student politics through the election of Mashudu 'Julian' Nthulane as the Student Representative Council president. Her election took almost 60 years after women of all races in South Africa, led by Lilian Ngoyi and others, marched to the Union Buildings in their struggle for freedom and women's rights. It is an affirmation that women are capable of leading, which dispels the notion that 'a woman's place is in the kitchen'.

For the down to earth, humble and listening Fightershudu, as she is affectionately known within her ranks of the Economic Freedom Fighters Students Command and the student body in general, 'women like men are born with the skills to lead' and therefore will turn the problems facing students into opportunities to enhance teaching and learning.

Julian is truly ready to undertake the SRC's large endeavours to promote teaching and learning.

During her interview with Univen Alumni News, she outlined the SRC plans for the 2016 academic year. These include assisting academically talented students who experience financial challenges, dealing with fraud, staffing, accommodation, sports and improving the lives of disabled students.

"Our first salvo and victory as students in South African universities, is to win the battle to have universities accede to our demands for no fee increase, free registration for poor and indebted students in 2016," said Julian.

"Univen looks like a construction site with the construction of new buildings which will accommodate more than 1 900 students. Accommodation will soon be a problem of the past as more and more students will be accommodated in campus residences."

She strongly opposes the idea of students paying affiliation fees in sports, arts and cultural activities since students represent the institution. She vowed to promote and introduce wheelchair tennis, blind cricket and volleyball sporting codes as part of improving the lives of disabled students, also ensuring that they get the relevant sports gears.

"We have already started to engage with management on updating the library facilities with the latest research journals and books, in an effort to increase research output. Students must study hard to secure bursaries. The destruction of property as a form of showing student grievances is not on the cards," said Julian.



**"Women, like men are born with the skills to lead"** – Nthulane.

## Dzingi loved education and life to the end

Pfunzo Mashau - mashaupfunzo@gmail.com

Dr Fhatuwani Ellen Nembudani passed away recently.

Affectionately known by her close peers and family as Dzingi, was born in the Maungani



Princess Dzingi – loving life to the end.

Village in the Vhembe District on 29 July 1956. She was the first born of seven children of the late Annah and Hibbert Masiagwala. Not many knew that she was born into a royal family and by blood was a princess. Nembudani was a humble soul, very conservative and down to earth. Through all that she achieved in life, she remained an ordinary citizen among her friends and family. Her goal in life was to be the light in many peoples' lives.

She married Thomas Jackson Raluswielo Nembudani in July 1984 and they had two daughters, Shumani and Fhatuwani. The children attained quality education through a selection of good schools, at many times sacrificing living with their parents.

While paying for her daughters' education, she also paid for some of her siblings and other family members' secondary and tertiary education. This generosity was passed on from her late father, Hibbert Masiagwala, who taught her that education was the key to a bright future.

She touched many lives, one a young rural girl who had a facial ingrowth. The young girl was a stranger, but seeing her suffering, Nembudani raised awareness about the young girl's condition with the then reality TV talk show host, Felicia Mabuza-Suttle. She intervened, the girl received facial surgery and appeared on the Felicia Talk show.

Nembudani matriculated at Mphaphuli High School in 1976. She obtained a BA degree

and a university education diploma at the then Turfloop University.

She taught at Shayandima Secondary School, Tshisimani College of Education and Ramaano College of Education between 1981 and 1997. She then joined the Department of Geography and Geo-Information Sciences at Univen as a lecturer. She became an avid geographer who lectured population geography, qualitative research methods and geographic information systems at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

In 1986 Nembudani graduated from Unisa with a BA (Hons) degree in Geography. At the University of Stellenbosch she received a master's degree majoring in urban studies with a dissertation "A geographical analysis of public open spaces for recreational use in Gugulethu, Cape Town". She completed a PhD in Geography at the University of South Africa in 2015. The thesis was "Spatio-temporal dynamics in the provision of primary school education in the Vhembe District, Limpopo, South Africa".

Nembudani attended many national and international conferences, among others in Australia and Moscow. She also published her investigation into water problems in the Thohoyandou area as one of her major contributions to solve the crisis of water shortages facing South Africa.

Nembudani is survived by her two daughters and her siblings, Livhuwani, Lufuno, Khuliso, Tendani and Hibbert.



# Thiba – from Tshikombani to town planning

Kwena Montsha - Kwena.montsha@univen.ac.za

Growing up in Tshikombani village in Nzhelele in the nineties, all Mbengeni Christopher Thiba wanted was to study Civil Engineering, specialising in structural engineering.

However, poverty and financial difficulties prevented him to pursue his first love but upon good advice he ended up pursuing the related field of Urban and Regional Planning at Univen. It was no easy walk as he dropped out several times to get piece jobs to finance his studies until he completed in 2007, seven years later.

Apart from his current full-time position as the Senior Town and Regional Planner at Limpopo's Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs where he started in 2010, after work Thiba sings, composes, writes songs and plays guitar for his Gospel Reggae musical group Chris Thiba and Zion Band. Gospel reggae is a genre of music that originated in Jamaica, mixing reggae rhythms with Christianity-themed lyrics.

"While in church on a Sunday, a fellow congregant told me that one day I will be a great musician, which inspired me to start a band. We have produced three albums, the latest being Missionary man, with a track 'Stop

it' ". Stop it is a call to all abusers, irrespective of gender, to stop domestic violence against women and children."

He had a stint in boxing while still a student at Univen, was a marathon runner and is a junior pastor at the Christ Embassy Church in his home village.

Before starting his current career, Thiba rendered services for various employers, including a Tshiongolwe planning consultant, the Modimolle Local Municipality as a town and regional planner and the Free State Department of Local Government and Housing as town and regional planner.

"Alumni should have mentoring programmes that will help young graduate professionals, particularly with capacity development, aiming at addressing issues such as academic exclusion based on finances and other socio-political and economic matters.

"Moreover, alumni should also concentrate on public lectures as per the field of their studies and profession as a platform to share new opportunities in the relevant sectors with the current students," says Thiba.

*Thiba – the singing town planner.*



## Learning from young

Univen's Schools Liaison Section worked with various stakeholders to disseminate information to learners and prospective students recently.

Engagements were conducted with over 300 schools, reaching over 20 000 learners.

Determined to have a bright future, among others, learners from Swobani Secondary Schools and the Manombe Secondary School interacted with Univen's Takalani Nyelisani to gather as much information as possible.

"It takes effort to motivate these learners to believe in themselves and to aspire furthering their education," says Nyelisani.

Career exhibitions are an organised event. Students are first gathered for a brief outside the event venue, taken through the second brief inside the venue about available exhibitors and a bit of motivational talk before they are released to different information desks.



## Internationalisation exchanges broaden horizons

Univen staff and students came together to celebrate their unity in diversity at the recent internationalisation and cultural exchanges evening.

More than 300 students and staff members participated in an interactive programme, which had been jointly organised by the Student Representative Council, Univen's International Student Union and the Directorate of International Relations.

The highlight of the evening was a 'world café', in which all participants considered integration of local and international students at Univen and thought of possible strategies

to strengthen it. The discussions took place in small groups, which nominated speakers to convey summaries of their ideas to the audience. Diverse opinions on the present state of integration were voiced, and suggestions ranged from mixing students in residences to providing for social integration.

Certainly these discussions open the door for future international cooperation, leading to other international alumni chapters being established.

*Learning about other cultures broaden horizons.*



## Univen supports Fort Hare centenary celebrations

Univen recently attended the centenary celebrations of the University of Fort Hare. The university is a public university in Alice in the Eastern Cape. It was a key institution of higher education for black Africans from 1916

to 1959, offering a Western-style academic education to students from across sub-Saharan Africa, creating a black African elite. Fort Hare alumni were part of many subsequent independence movements and governments

of newly independent African countries. In 1959, the university was subsumed by the apartheid system, but it is now part of South Africa's post-apartheid public higher education system. Several leading opponents of the

apartheid regime attended Fort Hare, among them Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo of the African National Congress, Mangosuthu Buthelezi of the Inkatha Freedom Party, Robert Sobukwe of the Pan Africanist Congress, Desmond Tutu, Kenneth Kaunda, Julius Nyerere, Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo. Mandela who studied Latin and physics there for almost two years in the 1940s, left the institution as a result of a conflict with a college leader. He later wrote in his autobiography that "For young black South Africans like myself, it was Oxford and Cambridge, Harvard and Yale, all rolled into one."

During the apartheid years, the school was nationalised and segregated along racial and tribal lines - blacks had previously gone to classes with Indians, coloureds and a few white students. It became part of the Bantu education system and teaching in African languages rather than English was encouraged.

After the end of apartheid, Oliver Tambo became chancellor of the university in 1991.

Univen Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Peter Mbatia participated in the centenary celebrations at the University of Fort Hare. The overriding theme was purposeful fundraising by Fort Hare alumni for the infrastructure growth of the university.

Univen will participate in more centenary activities planned for the year, including an international research conference scheduled for June 2016.

