



UNIVEN and Botho University renew MoU for another 5 years



Ms Sheila Ram, Vice-Chancellor, Botho University and Dr Bernard Nthambeleni, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, UNIVEN during the signing ceremony in Botswana

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) and Botho University have entrenched a vibrant collaboration which commenced in 2014. The two parties met between 25 and 26 March 2019 and looked at some of the challenges experienced during the implementation of the MoU and proffered solutions to improve the process in the new MoU. The meeting agreed that the collaboration in the last 5 years has been productive and the two universities had meaningful engagement and learnt a lot from each other hence the need to renew it for another 5 years with the possibility of expanding the collaboration at various other schools/faculty and departments. The MoU was renewed during a signing ceremony conducted at Botho University, Gaborone campus on 25 March 2019. The meeting evaluated the previous MoU which was adjudged to have been achieved greatly.

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni led the delegation while the Acting Director International Relations, Dr Segun Obadire; Director Legal Services, Adv Edward Lambani who officiated the programme; Mr Ndabezinhle Soganile and Mr Kudawaishe Madzima, Lecturer, Computer Science and Information Systems were part of the delegation. The signing ceremony was witnessed by the management team from

Botho University including Prof Peter Mbati, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Botho University and former Vice-Chancellor, UNIVEN who was the initiator of the collaboration when it started in 2013. Others were the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Strategy, Mr Ananth Ram; Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Internationalisation, Mr Ravi Srinivasan and the Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Internationalisation, Mr Lucky Moahi, as well as Deans and HoDs, Botho University.

The one semester student exchange programme in the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems started in the second semester

2015. The exchange programme allows credit transfers for participating students at both universities. Five students from each university were exchanged with a total number of 40 students participating to date. The exchange programme is guided by a signed MoA each year. The students are selected based on merit and academic performances. There have been staff exchange also in the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems and several postgraduate research workshops and masterclasses led by Senior Prof Georges Ekosse and Prof Pascal Bessong.



Ms Sheila Ram and Dr Bernard Nthambeleni

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Other achievements included the inter-cultural engagement by the participating students and staff from both universities. Curriculum development in the area of Water resource management by the School of Environmental Sciences is ongoing. Both parties agreed that the collaboration should be expanded to other fields such as staff and student exchanges in the department of Accounting, Tourism and hospitality programmes, external examination of postgraduate programmes in Accounting and MBA, problem-based learning in health programmes, work integrated learning in

education, smart Agriculture programme, joint Entrepreneurship programme, short courses should be the focus.

The delegation also paid a courtesy call to the Office of the South African High

Commissioner, Her Excellency Mrs R Mashaba. The delegation received a warm welcome from the High Commissioner who suggested that the two universities should look at the current problem of Early Childhood education and proffer a lasting solution to it in both countries. She promised a high-level support from her office in that regard.



Prof Peter Mbati, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Academic Programme, Botho University and Dr Bernard Nthambeleni, UNIVEN Vice-Chancellor and Principal during the ceremony

Department of Science and Technology visits Vuwani Science Resource Centre to conduct Peer evaluation

From 25-27 March 2019, the team led by South African Agency of Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA) that represented the National Research Foundation (NRF) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST) visited the Vuwani Science Resource Centre for Peer Evaluation. This peer evaluation was conducted under the Network of Science Centres in South Africa.

This evaluation started with the self-evaluation process which Vuwani Science Centre performed late last year.

The team was represented by Mr Jabulani Mathebula (SAASTA/NRF and DST, Committee Secretariat), Mr Thami Mpholeka (Chair of the Committee, Mr Bushy Moabelo (Committee Member) and Ms Tracy Singo (Committee Member). The peer evaluation started at Vuwani Science Resource Centre on Monday, 25 March and continued until Wednesday, 27 March 2019. On Tuesday, 26 March 2019, the team visited the University of Venda, School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences to have a discussion with the Dean and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic, Prof Jan Crafford. The committee proposed a discussion with two senior managers of Vuwani Science Resource Centre aiming at understanding the relationship between the centre and the University. A round table discussion went on for about an hour and half where several issues concerning the University management on Vuwani Science Resource Centre were discussed. The round table discussion further considered the strategies of sustainability of the science centre.

During their final discussion, the peer evaluation team commended Vuwani Science Resource Centre for their impact on rural communities. According to Dr Eric Maluta, Coordinator of the Vuwani Science Resource Centre, in the past two years, the centre had reached more than 80 000 learners in the rural areas. Dr Maluta said that the centre has appreciated the work done by the team and assured them that the University of Venda's Vuwani Science Resource Centre takes the evaluation as a learning curve for the centre to develop and to become recognised in the network of the science centres in South Africa.



SAASTA, NRF, DST and Univen staff members during a round table discussion



A group photo of SAASTA, NRF, DST and Univen staff members. Standing L-R: Prof Jan Crafford, Dr Eric Maluta, Mr Jabulani Mathebula and Mr Bushy Moabelo. Seated, Prof Natasha Potgieter, Mr Thami Mpholeka and Mrs Tracy Singo.

Several recommendations regarding the science centre were made by the team. Recommendations such as assembly point during the event of fire in the centre

building and visibility of the signage in the road pointing the science centre were made by peer evaluators. Dr Maluta mentioned that the team also recommended that

Vuwani Science Resource Centre needs to showcase its uniqueness as the driver of the renewable energy and indigenous knowledge system in the country.

5th University of Venda Research Indaba Day Promotes Research and Innovation to its Pole Position

On Tuesday, 26 March 2019, the University of Venda (Univen) Directorate of

Research and Innovation held the 5th University of Venda Research Indaba Day. This progressive Indaba day was held at Porche-Villa Hotel under the theme: 'Promoting Research and Innovation to its Pole Position'.



Prof. Jan Ernst Crafford, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic when opening the Indaba

During the opening and welcome of the Research Indaba Day, Prof. Jan Crafford, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic highlighted that the 5th Research Indaba Day takes place during unprecedented times in the institutions of higher learning. He indicated that universities are facing funding challenges due to the impact brought by free higher education. Prof. Crafford further highlighted that the number of research outputs in Masters and PhD graduates have been in the rise in the past ten years at Univen. He encouraged postgraduate students and researchers to be driven by passion and success despite the challenges that they are faced with. Prof. Crafford concluded his talk by encouraging researchers to publish their research articles because this will help to position the University where it belongs.



Senior Prof. Georges-Ivo Ekosse, Director of Research and Innovation

Director of Research and Innovation, Senior Prof. Georges-Ivo Ekosse told the audience that challenges are there not to discourage them. He further told them to take challenges as a motivation to work even harder. "Strive to be better researchers. Remember that the future of this country relies on you to come up with solutions to challenges that the country is going through". Senior Prof. Ekosse continued to encourage researchers, postgraduate students and research promoters to go all out and attract sponsors and funders. He assured them that he will continue to attract more funders. "Publish your research articles to position Univen among the top ten universities in the country in terms of research outputs," said Senior Prof. Ekosse.

As Guest Facilitators, Ms. Makole Magoro and Mr. Smart Maqubela both from the Directorate of Research and Innovation at the University of Pretoria, (UP), spoke about research capacity development. Ms. Magoro encouraged researchers to always strive for success. She further encouraged the audience to go out to seek for funding for their research projects. Ms. Magoro explained the way the University of Pretoria Research Office operates and told the audience that UP has enough funding but there are students who still attract sponsorships to fund their research projects.



Ms. Makole Magoro and Mr. Smart Maqubela, guests from the Directorate of Research and Innovation, University of Pretoria

Students shared their experiences and challenges that they come across as postgraduates and researchers. A panel discussion was set to come up with the possible solutions to challenges being faced by Univen research community.



A panel discussing about the challenges that are being faced by the postgraduate students at Univen during Indaba



Dr. Ramathuba reading the resolutions arrived at during the Indaba

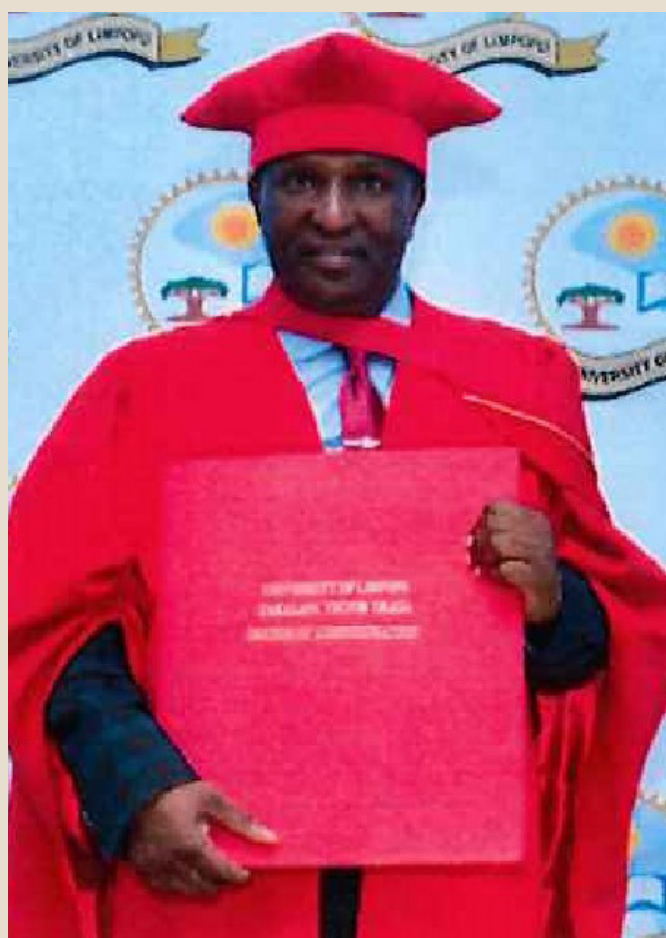


Dr. Sinah Sekhula proposed a vote of thanks



Group photo of attendees of the 5th University of Venda Research Indaba Day in 2019

New Doctor in the Department of Communications and Marketing



The Director of Communications and Marketing of the University of Venda, Takalani Dzaga, has completed his Doctor of Administration in Public Administration with the University of Limpopo. The degree was conferred to Dr Dzaga on 16 April 2019 at the University of Limpopo. Join me as we congratulate his achievement and years of hard work which finally paid off.

UNIVEN renews its MoU with HAWK Germany

On 11 April 2019, University of Venda (UNIVEN) renewed its existing MoU with Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaft Und Kunst (HAWK), University of Applied Science and Arts in Holzminden, Germany. The renewal of the MoU took place during a week-long international exchange programme full of activities in the Department of Social Work under the School of Human and Social Sciences. A number of activities successfully took place as captured in the previous MoU. Some of these activities include joint workshops, joint book projects, joint paper presentations during international conferences and annual student and staff exchange programme. UNIVEN staff and students started visiting Germany in 2013

and staff and students from HAWK have visited in the same manner till date.

The recent visit was from 6-13 April 2019 when UNIVEN hosted 14 students and 2 staff members from HAWK. During his presentation at the ceremony, Prof Mokgale Makgopa, Dean School of Human and Social Sciences enumerated the gains in terms of academic knowledge generation, cultural and international exposures to both staff and students who participated in the programme in the last 5 years. He declared that the partnership has grown to the level of a flagship during the past years. There was a very good working relations that has been established among partners, the passion of individuals and groups participating in the activities and the mutuality of partnership were commendable.



Dr Bernard Nthambeleni, Univen Vice-Chancellor and Principal (seated second from left) and Professor Dr Maïke Schmieta (seated far right) signing the MoU coordinated by the Director Legal Services, Adv Edward Lambani

UNIVEN renews its MoU with HAWK Germany continued...



Dr Bernard Nthambeleni, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Univen in handshake with Mrs Caroline Maas, Advisor, Office of the President of HAWK University of Applied Sciences, Germany

The parties agreed that the old MoU should be renewed, and they stressed the need for expansion and quality going forward. Mrs Caroline Maas was instrumental to the establishment of the MoU after her visit to the University around 2011. She confirmed making friends among staff and students in the programme since its inception. The School of Environmental Sciences played a strong role in initiating the establishment of the MoU but most of the activities took place in the Department of Social Work hence the need to expand the activities to other schools and units at the University.

The signing ceremony which took place at the Council Chambers was coordinated by the Director Legal Services, Adv Edward Lambani. The Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni signed on behalf of UNIVEN while Prof Dr.

Maïke Schmieta and Mrs Caroline Maas signed on behalf of HAWK. Also present to witness the occasion were Prof Jan Crafford, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof Mokgale Makgopa, Dr Lobelo D Mogorosi, HoD, Social Work and other staff members from the school: Ms Mmapfuti Mamaleka lecturer in the Social Work Department and Mrs Patricia Manganyi who is fieldwork coordinator and student's placement for the implementation of Work Integrated Learning in the Social Work Department. The programme was organized by the Directorate of International Relations led by Dr. Segun Obadire, Acting Director International Relations. Next year 10 students and 3 staff members from UNIVEN will be visiting HAWK for the annual exchange programme around May.



Some of the participants took a group picture during the signing ceremony



Standing: Dr Lobelo Mogorosi with Mrs Patricia Manganyi and Mrs Mmapfuti Mamaleka from the Social Work Department with (seated) Mrs Caroline Maas and Professor Dr Maïke Schmieta from HAWK and Dr Segun Obadire in the middle Acting Director of the International Relations during the renewal of the MoU between HAWK and UNIVEN

Rolivhuwa Sikhwari wins Miss SA Plus World 2019/2020

Rolivhuwa Tondani Sikhwari was crowned as the new Miss South African Plus World 2019/20 winner on Saturday, 06 April 2019. The event was held at Bloemfontein over the weekend.

The 22-year-old final year LLB student (14007182) at the University of Venda, who hails from Makwarela near Thohoyandou says that it is such an honour to be crowned as Miss South Africa Plus World 2019/2020.

"I conquered everything that they said I wouldn't, plus size is indeed beautiful,"
- Shikhwari

Sikhwari said that her journey to the finalist was quite fun. "I met a lot of beautiful women with different personalities, characters and cultures, and we created an awesome sisterhood where we get to know each other, assist in challenging times, and support each other's events," She added.

"My next step is to involve myself with the community, give my all to elevate and promote humanitarian services around South Africa," said the newly crowned Miss South African Plus World.

Rolivhuwa Tondani Sikhwari is still going to compete in Texas in August 2020 with other international women for Miss Plus World.

"A word of advice to all other plus ladies out there is that your body doesn't define

who you are, your inner beauty unleashes your outer beauty, you are more than just your body," Sikhwari.

Sikhwari extended her special gratitude to Mudifho Empire for hosting Miss Venda plus size, for it is where she got to know and be part of Miss South Africa Plus World and the founder of Miss South Africa plus world Mr chief leeuw. "Had it not been for them, I wouldn't have been a queen that I am today," she said.

Her 1st Princess Tisetso Mashabathakga from Gouteng and the 2nd Princess Petronella is from Mpumalanga. Petronella is also a Univen student and she is due to graduate her Bachelor of Environmental Sciences in May 2019 graduation.

The University of Venda students participated in this completion in numbers. One of them is Preciah Shuan Shibambu (23), Univen Radio staff member and is doing her final year of Bachelor of Arts in Development Studies in the School of Human and Social Sciences. On the above photo, she is 2nd from right.



Photo supplied: Rolivhuwa Tondani Sikhwari (middle) with Tisetso Mashabathakga, 1st Princess and Petronella Mabaso 2nd Princess of Miss SA Plus World 2019/2020



Photo supplied: Tondani Sikhwari (seated) pose for a photo with other contestants



Prof Mulaudzi with Dr Bhatia, Founder of World Sustainability, and founder of Corporate Social Responsibility Day.

Prof Tshilidzi Mulaudzi (Nee Mashamba) receives an International Award as "The Best Professor in Psychology Studies"

Prof Tshilidzi Mulaudzi, Dean of the School of Health Sciences at the University of Venda, South Africa is the recipient of

"The Best professor in Psychology Studies"

Award. She received the award during the South Africa Education Leadership awards presented by the Asian Confederation of Businesses endorsed by World Federation of Academic and Education

Institutions in Sandton, South Africa on 04 April 2019. The South Africa Education Leadership Awards is an intensely researched process undertaken by the research cell, which after tracking nominees achievements, produces a shortlist of those who are doing extraordinary work. The shortlist is then reviewed by a Jury comprising of senior professionals (8 members) from across the globe. These awards are of the highest stature and are presented to individuals who are building their institutions through exemplary leadership and building future leaders. In addition, Prof Mulaudzi is one of the five winners of the 2017 Univen Vice Chancellor's Excellence in Teaching Awards.



Diphale Secondary School Grade 12 learners take charge of their career choices

On Tuesday, 16 April 2019 Diphale Secondary school from Sekhukhune District travelled more than 250 kilometers to the University of Venda (Univen) in Thohoyandou to make sure that 44 Grade 12 learners fully understand available career choices in order to avoid making mistakes during application processes.



Diphale Secondary School's Acting Principal who is also a Physical Science and Mathematics Teacher, Mr Jonas Pitjo said it was a daily song sung by his grade 12 learners that there is a need to visit the Univen to learn more about the admission requirements and bursaries available. Mr Pitjo didn't hesitate to start arrangements with Univen for his learners to visit the University.



The Assistant Schools Liaison Officer, Mr Justice Lebopa explained to learners and teachers the admission requirements, bursary applications process and general life guidance for one to be successful. The presentation took place at the Univen Innovative Growth Company (UIGC) Seminar room.

Agricultural Science educator, Mr Albert Talane was very happy to visit Univen, especially the School of Agriculture because his learners were able to witness some of the aspects practically. He said the aspects include plants, various animals which mostly learners come across theoretically in class. "This trip is very important because it will help my learners to perform during exam. It will motivate them to work hard if they are serious about studying at tertiary institutions", he said.

Learners were also impressed by the practical work performed by students in the School of Agriculture. They expressed that this shows that there is proper training in the agricultural field which encouraged them to consider studying at Univen.



Mr Justice Lebopa (in Blue T-shirt) with teachers and learners from Diphale Secondary School at the University's practical pig stalls during their visit



Above: Learners and educators from Diphale Secondary School going through Univen Prospectus during the career guidance session at the Univen's UIGC Seminar room



Above: Learners and teachers at the School of Agriculture



Learners and Teachers also visited the University's student residences.



Learners led by the educator, Mr Albert Talane being orientated at the School of Agriculture.

Hawk Social Work students and staff learn African way of doing things



As usual when visitors visit the University of Venda (Univen), there should be a ceremony to bid them a farewell. The Department of Social work under the School Human and Social Sciences bid farewell to Hawk students and staff members who recently visited the Univen as part of the 2019 HAWK-UNIVEN visit. The closing ceremony was held at 2Ten Hotel on Friday, 12 April 2019.

Prof Mokgale Makgopa, Dean of the School of Human and Social Sciences said that he was very much happy to be associated and be involved in a partnership of this caliber. "As the School, we are pleased to announce that on Univen side, the MoU has been signed for the renewal and witnesses have also signed on behalf of Hawk, only the president is yet to sign this renewal for another 5 years. Prof Makgopa expressed that the renewal on this MoU is a need because the partnership between Hawk and Univen is coming to an end in July 2019. "This collaboration is very important because it addresses strategic issues of the two universities," he said.



Univen will visit Hawk from 05 –15 May next year, before June exam. According to Prof Makgopa, ten (10) Univen students accompanied by three staff members will visit Hawk "The issue of staff exchange is also included in the upcoming MoU for the next 5 years." Prof Makgopa said Univen is ready to host Hawk students for Work Integrated Learning and explained that it will be difficult for Univen students to do their practicals in Germany because of the issue of Language. He thanked Prof Maike Schmieta for the support and always being available when needed. He further thanked Caroline Maas, for her full support and being helpful and making sure that this is a success including colleagues in the Department for full support of this partnership. "This is the project that must support the entire students, it is all about empowering students. Let us make sure that we work together in making sure that this project is successful and sustainable," he said.

Mrs Caroline Maas from Hawk explained this partnership as beneficial to both Hawk and Univen students as well as staff. She said that she has no doubt that it will continue into the next 5 years. "I am very happy that the partnership has developed just the way we have expected. She said on Hawk side, they were planning on the future exchange activities of the collaboration and she thanked students from both universities for behaving well during the period that they spent in Thohoyandou.

Representing Social work staff was Ms Mmaphuti Mamaleka who also explained the collaboration as progressive and fruitful because throughout this partnership, the students have learned a lot and they are able to conduct research on their own which proves they have developed research skills. "They now have knowledge about what to expect in the field. Many skills have been developed and students can now do things on their own and responsibly." Ms Mamaleka continued to say that this collaboration is taking every move to the forth and wished it could continue because it bears better results with a lot of benefits for all.



Vote of thanks was rendered by students of both partnering universities



Hawk students singing the German national anthem



Hawk Students posing with handcrafted bags as a gift of appreciation from Univen



A level 4 Univen Social Work student, Marcus Mojela gave a word of appreciation. He said Social workers are really needed in South Africa and the whole world in general. "We as social workers are valuable to these communities and we can make a change by solving their problems." He



advised social work students to challenge problems that they are faced with to make the world a better place to live in. He expressed that he was motivated by this exchange programme and wished it could continue for the upcoming generations to benefit and learn from it.



Group photo of students and staff of Univen and hawk

UNIVEN hosts the USDP Academic Leadership Seminar

The second Academic Leadership Seminar of the University Staff Doctoral Programme (USDP) was held between 12 and 13 March 2019 at the University of Venda (UNIVEN) Art Gallery. USDP is a project under the University Capacity Development

Programme (UCDP) established through the United States-South Africa Higher Education Network which is funded by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and the USA to the tune of R6 million and to which UNIVEN is a party. Other partners

in the consortium include: University of the Free State (UFS); Appalachian State University (AppState), USA; University of Montana (UM), USA and Colorado State University (CSU), USA. Facilitators were drawn from all the five universities

The seminar was opened by Dr Bernard Nthambeleni, UNIVEN Vice-Chancellor and Principal. In his inspiring welcome address, Dr Nthambeleni highlighted the importance of USDP to historically disadvantaged institutions and its value to capacity development in these institutions. A total of 25 participants, including 8 facilitators, 10 USDP scholars and others participated in the seminar. The coordinators of the project from UNIVEN are Prof Peter Taylor, South African Research Chair on Biodiversity Value and Change; Prof Vhonani Netshandama, Director Community Engagement and Dr Segun Obadike, Acting Director International Relations. The PhD scholars are focusing on mountain research.

The seminar started with the annual USDP committee meeting on Monday 11 March 2019. Mr Cornelius Hagenmeier, Director Internationalisation, UFS participated in the meeting via Skype. Additional support was provided by ancillary staff, Mr Kanego Makgosi, International Office, UFS and Pulane Xaba, Project Administrator were in attendance.

The joint seminar fostered skills which reinforced both academic leadership and research capacity development. The scholars were from diverse backgrounds, such as Sociology, Humanities, Education, Geography, Computer Science and Economic Management Sciences, while the facilitators were drawn from disciplines like Public Management, Zoology, Geography, Wildlife Sciences and Social Sciences. The themes that were covered include: Teamwork and Team Building, led by Prof Jesse Lutabingwa, Associate Vice-Chancellor, AppState; Participatory social



Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni during the opening of the seminar

science methods: Insights for data collection and analysis for working with communities led by Dr Natasha Constant, Research fellow, UNIVEN; Statistics for dummies and data analysis for natural scientists which was presented by Prof Peter Taylor; Thesis writing led by Dr Bill Schuman, Director Appalachian study, AppState; Publishing from a thesis led by Prof Del Benson, CSU; Publishing in high Impact journals led by Prof Kyran Kunkel, UM and Community engagement research methods led by Prof Joseph Francis, Director Institute for Rural Development, UNIVEN.

USDP scholars presented their research proposal. The indoor part of the seminar was concluded with an open discussion in which the facilitators and USDP scholars collectively addressed questions, as well as shared their fears, progress and experiences. The scholars will proceed to US partners Universities in September 2019 for one month where they will participate in different workshops and seminars to improve their learning experience. A guided tour conducted by Mr Nelson Maphaha, from the African Ivory Route was undertaken to the Fundudzi sacred forest around Nzhelele.



Members of the USDP Steering committee during the annual meeting



Some of the participants at the seminar

UNIVEN hosts the USDP Academic Leadership Seminar continued...

The USDP is fortunate to receive support from world class researchers and scientists from both South Africa and the United States. Subject to the availability of funding, it might be necessary to run similar seminars throughout the entire duration of the project. Also, if financial resources permitted, the seminars could be lengthened so that both facilitators and scholars are accorded enough time to interact and to apply the knowledge that is transmitted through the seminars.



Delegates during their Venda cultural tour at Lake Fundudzi and the Thathe sacred forest

UNIVEN Top Inventors Receive the DST Intellectual Property Creators Awards

The National Intellectual Property Management Office (NIPMO), a specialised service delivery unit of the Department of Science and Technology together with the Minister of Science and Technology, the honorable Mmamoloko Kubayi Ngubane hosted the very first Intellectual Property Creators Awards on the 28th of March 2019 at Saint George Hotel and Convention Center-Pretoria.

The IP Creators Awards are given to university and science councils researchers who actively disclose their research and development (R&D) outputs which are actionable to an Office of Technology Transfer (OTT). The OTT is obligated by the Intellectual Property Rights from Publicly Financed Research and Development Act (IPR-PFRD), to receive disclosures of potential IP emanating from publicly financed research and development.

Once the disclosure is made, the OTT must ensure that the IP is identified, protected, utilised and commercialised for the benefit of the people of the Republic.

UNIVEN top IP creators received certificates of acknowledgment from the Minister of the Department of Science and Technology, for their actionable disclosures to UNIVEN OTT which resulted in two patents in the name of the university.



UNIVEN IP creators Professor Wilson Gitari and PhD candidate Ms. Tholiso Ngulube (3rd from left) together with DST Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi - Ngubane (far left) and Director General Dr Phil Mjwara (far right).

In addition, UNIVEN received a monetary contribution of an amount of R 605 000,00 for the patents protected out of the research activities of Professor Wilson Gitari and his former PhD Student Dr. Anthony Izuagie, Professor Jabulani Gumbo and his PhD student Ms. Tholiso Ngulube. The monetary contribution shall be used to further advance the inventions within the innovation value chain, and commercialise the technologies for the benefit of UNIVEN and the IP creators.



Professor Wilson Gitari receiving an acknowledgement certificate for his work on Deffluoridation Treatment of ground water patent with Professor Jabulani Gumbo and Dr. Anthony Izuagie



UNIVEN OTT Coordinator Mr. Thabo Lebelo with UNIVEN Top IP creators

UNIVEN Top Inventors Receive the DST Intellectual Property Creators Awards continued...



PhD candidate, Ms. Tholiso Ngulube receiving an acknowledgement certificate for her Method of Dye Removal patent with Professor Jabulani Gumbo and Dr. Vhahangwele Masindi (CSIR)



Deputy Director General of Science and Technology Mr. Mmboneni Muofhe congratulating the UNIVEN team

The Defluoridation patent is based on the invention of a process for the removal of fluoride in various water sources, including ground water with oxide-modified diatomaceous earth. The Invention aims at removing fluoride in a water source for example borehole, particularly in rural areas in which rural communities do not have access to pipe water infrastructure and are dependent on ground water or surface water from rivers.

The Method of Dye Removal patent of the trio, Professor J. Gumbo, Dr. V. Masindi (CSIR) and PhD candidate Ms. T. Ngulube, deals with the removal of synthetic dyes from wastewater. The technology is meant to be utilised by industries using dyes including textile, paint, print and ink for treatment of coloured wastewater before it is discharged into the environment.

Mr. Muofhe during his vote of thanks stated that he was proud that two of South Africa's Universities in the far north of the country with less than three years of the operation

of NIPMO supported Offices of Technology Transfer (OTT). He further stated that the geographic location of an institution must not be a hindrance for innovation, and that he was proud of the work done so far by UNIVEN and UL.

UNIVEN Office of Technology Transfer (OTT) has been established within the Directorate of Research and Innovation, with support funding for three years from NIPMO to oversee all Intellectual Property matters pertaining to disclosures, identification, protection, utilization and commercialisation of R&D outputs from publicly financed R&D.

The OTT encourages all UNIVEN researchers to disclose all their R&D discoveries to the office before publication in journals or conferences, so that UNIVEN can have a chance to protect any viable IP imbedded within their research and thus have an opportunity to generate third stream income for UNIVEN and monetary benefit sharing for the researchers.

Partnership between Hawk and Univen benefits staff, students and rural communities

On Monday, 08 April 2019, the University of Venda (Univen) Department of Social Work under the School of Human and Social Sciences in partnership with the Directorate of International Relations welcomed students and staff from Hochschule for Angewandte Wissenschaft Und Kust (Hawk), English translation; University of Applied Sciences and Arts in Holziminden, Germany. The welcoming ceremony was held at the University's Art Gallery.

Dr Bernard Nthambeleni, Univen's Vice-Chancellor and Principal welcomed the visitors to South Africa and told them to enjoy their visit by feeling at home. He said the collaboration between the two universities makes it easier for students to learn new skills which will make them better products. Dr Nthambeleni said that collaborations are intended to create future leaders that will contribute



in the transformation and betterment of both Africa and Europe. He told the audience that at Univen, we protect and respect other people's cultures because students and staff members come from diverse cultures.

"This collaboration will ensure that students of both universities are quality products that are competitive world wide. Univen is doing well in research and this collaboration should lead into community engagement. Dr Nthambeleni expressed that there is a need to renew the MoU for the next 5 years because it has a potential of producing better graduates."

The HoD of Social Work, Dr. Lobelo D. Mogorosi shared the experiences of this collaboration from the beginning in 2014 to date. He briefly shared the history of South Africa to the

visitors and he explained South Africa as a very progressive country in Africa, economically. "Our links started before 2014." He told the audience that their first visits started in 2011. "In December 2012 Univen visited Hawk. In 2014 we also had visitors from Hawk to sign MoU. Hawk subsequently visited Univen in 2014, 2017 and 2019 while Univen visited Hawk 3 times; 2015, 2016 and 2018." Dr Mogorosi said, in 2018, Prof Makgopa visited Hawk again with 14 students and 3 social work staff members; Dr Mogorosi, Mr Baloyi and Ms Mamaleka. He said during the visits, the host would take the visitors to various centres and hospitals for exposure and to learn how various activities are performed in the host's country. "It has been a very fruitful collaboration. Most staff and students from both Universities have benefitted a lot from this collaboration," said Dr Mogorosi.

Partnership between Hawk and Univen benefits staff, students and rural communities continued...



Prof Mokgale Makgopa, Dean School of Human and Social Sciences who was the programme director requested that there should be a book regarding this collaboration. The envisaged book will report about the accomplished objectives of the signed MoU. He said the book should include the experiences of both universities, Hawk and Univen since the collaboration started back in 2014.



Dr Segun Obadire, Acting Director International Relations thanked everyone who was involved in this collaboration because without their presence and dedication, this collaboration would not have happened. He assured those who were participating for the first time that they would benefit a lot from this collaboration. Dr Obadire assured the Germans that, Univen collaborates to share experiences not to be recipients from the collaborations. "We fully participate within the collaborations and Univen is present in most international institutions of higher learning," he said. He concluded his talk by mentioning that there is a need to bring change in the lives of rural communities around Thohoyandou.



Students entertaining the audience with cultural dance



Univen social work students rendering a poem about the pride of being a social worker



Ms Adivhaho Mavhungu, Social Work Student Association Chairperson encouraged students to use the opportunity as a way of knowledge exchange. She said, as students they feel honored to participate in this student exchange programme and that she has benefited a lot from it.



Prof Maike Schmieta from Hawk Faculty of Management Social Work Construction briefly explained the collaboration to be beneficial to students of both partnering universities. She said she saw a need to renew the MoU between the two universities (Univen and Hawk) for the benefit of staff and students of both Universities.



Univen and Hawk staff posing for a photo



Univen staff, Hawk staff and students from the two collaborating universities posing for a group photo outside Art Gallery



Group photo of the attendees on day 2 of the Research Data Management Workshop

Postgraduate students and Researchers benefit from Research Data Management workshop

On 27-28 March 2019, the Directorate of Research and Innovation Research, Administration Section conducted the Research Data Management Workshop. The workshop took place at the University's Research Conference Centre under the theme 'Promoting research and innovation to its Pole Position'.

During the workshop, the Director of Research and Innovation, Senior Prof Georges Ekosse advised the audience to grab all opportunities that are available to them. He further encouraged them data is very important and that proper data management helps in ensuring that vital data is never lost and is protected inside the organization. "We are living in the 4th industrial revolution and people should adopt and use the technologies that are available because technology simplifies everything." Senior Prof Georges Ekosse continued his talk by advising postgraduate students and research staff members to put trust and respect their research supervisors and mentors. He said that following proper procedures during research data collection is very important because without good data, researchers will not be able to produce good results.

Dr Awuzie Bankole from Central University of Technology, Bloemfontein who was the Facilitator of the workshop on the first day presented about research data gathering; handling of research data: making data fit for purpose; research data storage and preservation. Dr Bankole further encouraged participants to treat research data management in the form of intellectual property. Researchers and Postgraduate Students were also advised to store their data even if they have completed their studies for a period of 5 year or be guided by the university rules in terms of data storage.

"We are living in the 4th industrial revolution and people should adopt and use the technologies that are available because technology simplifies everything."



The Director Research and Innovation, Senior Prof Ekosse on Day 1 of Research Data Management giving the purpose and warm welcome of the audience



Mrs Julia Sigama, Research Administration Coordinator in the Directorate of Research and Innovation introducing the programme director for the day



Dr Thizwilondi Mudau, Senior Lecture in the School of Human and Social Sciences, department of Gender studies was the Programme Director for Day 1 of Research Data Management.



Facilitator Dr Awuzie Bankole from Central University of Technology, Bloemfontein



Mrs Livhuwani Nemaangane, Research Officer in the Directorate of Research and Innovation giving vote of thanks on Day one to all External Guests, Researchers and Postgraduate students



Dr Sinah Sekhula, Research Officer in the Directorate of Research and Innovation was the Programme Director for Day 2 of Research Data Management.

Postgraduate students and Researchers benefit from Research continued...



Senior Prof Ekosse with a group of attendees of the first day of Research Data Management workshop Day 2: Research Data Management



Dr Awuzie Bankole from Central University of Technology, Bloemfontein on Day 2 of Research Data Management.



Prof Rechael Lebese, Research Professor in the School of Health Sciences on Day 2 of Research Data Management.



Prof Dixon Ochara, Research Professor in the School of Management Sciences on Day 2 of Research Data Management Workshop



Senior Prof Ekosse on day two of Research Data Management

On the second day, Dr Bankole continued to present about ethical issues related to Research Data Management and the issue of risks and the level of risks; research ethics evaluation; definitions of research ethics; ethical principles of research, and ethical dimensions of scientific research related data management.

Prof Lebese, coordinated research data discussions, she told the audience to be vigilant before they sign any document or agreement forms. "Not all grants are worth

for sharing your data," she told Univen researchers and postgraduate students. She further indicated that researchers should keep track of their records during data collection and also be able to trace back their data they have collected.

On the second day of the workshop, Prof Ochara, spoke about research data sharing; ethical issues related to research data management and the concept of research data management. Prof Ochara advised researchers to be

careful and take note of the educational background before asking someone to be their research assistants, especially during data collection. He emphasized that PhD students should not appoint Honours students to collect their data. PhD students should have ownership and understanding of their data collected.

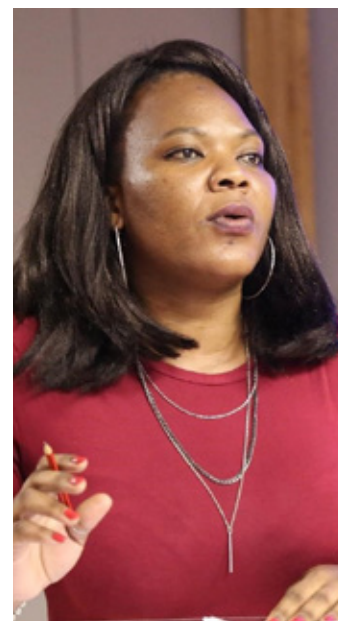
Senior Prof Ekosse cautioned researchers to adhere to ethics norms, so that they can distinguish between acceptable and unacceptable. The issue of research

assistant appointments was further emphasized by the Director Research and Innovation.

Ms Khoza presented the processes and procedures of ethics application in the Directorate of Research and innovation. She elaborated on the Research Ethical protocol application form (R7/R7a) and the contents of the form; tips for successful ethics review. Researchers were advised to do their own checklist before submitting their application form.



Researchers and postgraduate students listening to speakers during the workshop



Ms Vanecia Khoza, Research Assistant in the Directorate of Research and Innovation on Day 2 of Research Data Management

Univen upskills 58 academic staff with a Portfolio Development Workshop

The Academic Development Unit of the Centre for Higher Education Teaching and Learning (CHETL) at the University of Venda (Univen) held a Portfolio Development Workshop for academics on Friday, 05 and Friday, 12 April 2019 at 2Ten Hotel in Sibasa. The workshop was attended by 58 academic staff from various Schools of the University of Venda.



In her opening address, the Director Centre for Higher Education Teaching and Learning, Professor Nancy Mutshaeni mentioned that the workshop focussed on developing a Teaching Portfolio and narrating one's trajectory as an academic in a well-documented reflective manner. The participants were assured that they were to be taken through a journey including skills that require them to think deeply and critically about their teaching philosophy, teaching and learning practices and their stance on assessment. She further indicated that a Teaching Portfolio can help to reflect on what they do and also their teaching skills can be refined. The participants were reminded that the Portfolio is a multi-faceted document meant to organize their accomplishments, goals, aspirations, and personal thought.



Ms Nosipho Ngangani, Head of Records and Archives Management presented about matters relating to management of records and their importance. Among other things, Ms Ngangani told the audience that records management is important for any organisation because it ensures that vital, historical, fiscal and legal values are identified and preserved. She highlighted that records are important because they provide evidence; provide a corporate memory; formulate policy; make decisions; sustain service delivery; protect the interests of the organization, staff and clients. "Once you are being able to develop a portfolio, it becomes part of managing records", said Nosipho. Ms Ngangani showed that well managed records avoid risks and loss of corporate memory. She emphasized the fact that records management is everybody's responsibility.



Dr Langutani Masehela, Head of Academic Development Unit at CHETL shared information on current developments in the higher education sector at the national level. She spoke about the importance of the recently published document titled "National Framework for Enhancing Academics as University teachers" published by the Department of Higher Education and Training. In her presentation she indicated that the framework was aimed at promoting continuous professional development for university teachers to maximize teaching excellence in higher education. She further advised lecturers to reflect on their teaching practices in order to increase chances of academic success of their students.



Dr Fhatuwani Ravhuhali, Senior Academic Developer from the Academic Development Unit dealt with issues pertaining to developing a Teaching Portfolio. He advised academic staff to share their teaching philosophies with their students in order to ensure that they are on the same page with them. Dr Ravhuhali further showed the importance of having a Teaching Portfolio in one's teaching responsibility. He pointed that a portfolio provides documented evidence of teaching from various sources. "Developing a teaching portfolio is not a once off activity, it's an ongoing process." He said that as the portfolio develops over time, academics should include documents that provide evidence of a wide range of activities and achievements.



Dr Emma Lubaale, Senior Lecturer at Univen School of Law shared her personal experience in compiling a teaching portfolio. She encouraged other academic staff to build their teaching portfolio because the teaching portfolio makes a job easier. She told them that they can even enter teaching competitions using the same portfolio because it provides details and evidence of their work and achievements in teaching.



The first group of academic staff that attended the workshop on day one of the workshop.



The second group of academic staff that attended the workshop on day two of the workshop

Univen Works with Maebani Community Development Forum to Brighten Future of Learners

Maebane Community Development Forum situated at Maebani Village outside Louis Trichardt, is one of the active organizations which is prepared to support its community in various spheres for individual's success. Amongst other objectives, the forum is responsible for the educational development role targeting local schools under Soutpansberg West Circuit for the benefit of learners to acquire information which would change their lives.

Members of Maebani Community Development Forum together with Maebani Royal Council and Luvhivhini Secondary School in partnership with the University of Venda conducted a career guidance and motivational talk, which was held at Luvhivhini Secondary School under Soutpansberg West Circuit on Saturday, 06 April 2019. Approximately 300 learners from grade 10 to 12 attended the event to gather careers and bursaries information and to learn about the guidelines which one must comply with in order to get admission to tertiary institutions.

The Principal of Luvhivhini Secondary School, Ms Livhuwani Raliphada welcomed the invited guests. "I am welcoming learners who are thirsty, learners who want to learn more because they want to make a difference in their lives. I encourage all learners to be disciplined because this is one of the sessions that can determine your future. We are here for a career guidance and to be motivated. We are a school which is always prepared to produce better results regardless of our condition and environment. Since 2014 our grade 12 performance was not less than 80%", said the Principal of Luvhivhini Secondary.



Univen Works with Maebani Community Development Forum to Brighten Future of Learners continued...



During her purpose and welcome address, the Principal took the opportunity to award certificates to the best learners. A Grade 9 learner, Thabang Ramashia took position one (01) in grade 9 but was absent, attending a Saturday class.

Tshililo is one of the learners awarded for performing more than all grade 8 learners by obtaining more than 70 percent average during the first quarter of 2019.



The Deputy Chairperson of Education in the forum, Mr Lutendo Ratshibaya introduced members of Maebani Community Development Forum and encouraged unity, dedication and commitment amongst each other for the benefit of learners and the community at large.



The University of Venda Assistant Schools Liaison Officer, Mr Justice Lebopa briefly presented all Univen programmes.

"The University of Venda consists of eight schools which you can choose your career of interest from. Make sure that you choose careers that you have passion and interest in. Applications to study at Univen are online. Prospective students were encouraged peruse the prospectus for more information about programmes offered at Univen. They were also urged to adhere to all application guidelines. Failure to apply on time or poor performance in grade 12 hinders you from getting admission, said Mr Lebopa. Do not make mistake of not applying for bursaries, including the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), Funza Lushaka, Thuthuka bursary etc."



The Marketing Lecturer at Vhembe Technical Vocational Education and Training College, Mr Mphaleni Louis Netshandama presented National Certificate Vocational (NCV) and Report 191 NATED programmes which are offered by TVET Colleges. "Not everyone must study at the Universities. Therefore, some will follow the TVET Colleges route depending on your career plan, so do not undermine TVET Colleges. They offer skills which are required for our economic growth and job creation", said Mr Netshandama.



Photo above: Grade 8 learner, Khosa Tshililo Innocent (middle) shaking hands with the Soutpansberg West Circuit Manager, Ms Christinah Ramovha (right).



Grade 10 learner, Unarine Muleya was awarded for taking position one (1) next to him is the Chairperson of Education at Maebani Community Development Forum, Mr Masindi Nedzamba (right) and Ms Livhuwani Raliphada (left).



"I am a living testimony", this was the topic of the Guest speaker, Ms Welheminah Mabogo from the University of Venda, who briefly shared her thorny journey she travelled from a very poor family background until she succeeded in life. The aim was to encourage and motivate learners that irrespective of their family backgrounds they could still make it in life. Ms Mabogo said your family background should not determine your future. She started working at Univen as a gardener. "In whatever I choose I want top of the range, so your bachelor pass must be a top of the range for you to be successful and get admission. I thank God that in whatever challenges I came across, he gave me strength and wisdom so that I could stand up strongly and be where I am today".

Ms Mabogo concluded her talk by encouraging the Maebani Community Development Forum to continue to do good for betterment and development of their community.

Univen Works with Maebani Community Development Forum to Brighten Future of Learners continued...



Above: Soulpansberg West Circuit Manager, Ms Christinah Ramovha:

"This forum is in line with what the Department of Basic Education has already started which is collaboration between various stakeholders and communities so that we can encourage learners to study and to pursue different careers" said Ms Ramovha. The Circuit Manager further said people who are successful must plough back to their communities which is much appreciated and that is what members of Maebani Community Development Forum are doing". Luvhivhini Secondary School has been given a target of achieving 90% in 2019 academic year. "It will be a waste of time and resources if we motivated

you (grade 12 learners) in this manner but come year end, you disappoint us, it will be unacceptable", added the Circuit Manager, Ms Ramovha. "We are preparing you to be our future leaders but you can't be if you don't study. If you didn't perform well in the first quarter of 2019, use this opportunity to learn more and change so that you improve your performance in the successive quarters. She thanked the University of Venda for the support and promised that she is prepared as the Circuit Manager to encourage all learners in her circuit to apply before the closing date at Univen.



Learners getting into different classes to attend career guidance sessions after a formal programme.



Mr Lebopa in conversation with one of the teachers just after the official programme.



Group photo: Members of Maebani Community Development Forum, Luvhivhini secondary School educators, members of School Governing Body, best performing learners and Univen Assistant Schools Liaison Officer, Justice Lebopa pose for a photo after the event.

We would like to hear from you!

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