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Creating future leaders

## Enactus team wins big time!

With their project 'Hi-Hanyile essential oil and medicinal plant' which addresses the issue of malaria, the Enactus Univen team walked away with the first prize in the Enactus South Africa national competition.



**Well deserved!** - from left, Team President Tinomuvonga Shumbanhete and Calvin Nevuwari.

The project was adopted in 2017 and introduced in London during the 2017 Enactus world cup.

Malaria is a life-threatening mosquito borne disease and about 212 malaria cases were reported in 2017 alone. This project makes mosquito repellent candles that help reduce malaria cases. The candles are made from extracted oil from the plant Lippia Javannica.

Enactus Univen is currently running five projects – the Mukondeni pottery and ceramic water filters, Pectin, Street Hawkers, Sewing and Hi-Hanyile projects. The team comprises 162 members, three faculty advisors, eight alumni and five business advisory board members.

**Team spirit** - Enactus Univen team before presenting their ideas.



Enactus is an international non-profit organisation that works with leaders in business and higher education. It mobilises university students to make a difference in their communities while developing skills to become socially responsible business leaders.

Enactus operates in 40 countries worldwide with 28 tertiary institutions in South Africa participating, including the University of Venda.



**Working hard** - Enactus Univen during presentations.



Enactus Univen team.



Enactus Univen flag parade.



Lippia Javannica plant leaves.



Mosquito repellent candles made from Lippia Javannica oil

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## Leave an educational legacy wherever you go

"We must widen involvement in teaching with teachers, students and parents collaborating about school activities," says Prof Charl Roux of the University of Johannesburg.

Speaking at the recent Univen Centre of Biokinetics Prof Amusa memorial lecture, Roux said giving quality training to facilitators about values and physical education is essential.



Attentively listening.

With his presentation themed 'The need for value management in leisure, recreation and sport science', Roux said the need to implement and fuse this into school curriculums is as important.

"Statistics show that there is a health crisis with the youth in terms of physical activity and physical education. The detriment of the government wanting to abolish life orientation and replace it with history as a mandatory subject will not serve the future of young people."

Roux said the values of education and its importance on the education system form part of personality and identity shaping.

"There should be a deliberate education of values – not a mere acceptance of universal values. It is essential that we leave an educational legacy wherever we go."

Roux holds a master's degree in Human Movement Studies from the University of Stellenbosch and obtained a doctorate from the University of Johannesburg

in 2006. This year he obtained an MA in Olympic Studies with distinction from The German Sport University of Cologne, Germany.

Dr Cebisa Nesamvuni, Head of the Centre for Biokinetics, Recreation and Sports Science, said the centre was established in 2002 under the leadership

of Prof Amusa. From 2003 the centre gave annual lectures in the disciplines of biokinetics, recreation and leisure studies and sports science.

"To memoir his dedication and efforts in putting the centre together, the annual lecture is now called the Prof Amusa memorial lecture," she said.



Man of the moment - Prof Roux and Univen staff.



# Joining of forces at EXAKT4YOU

A recent workshop in Arusha, Tanzania celebrated the memorandum of understanding between Univen and the Nelson Mandela African Institution for Science and Technology in Tanzania.

The workshop, EXAKT4YOU, was funded by the Baden-Wurttemberg Foundation and brought together the Duale Hochschule in Baden-Wurttemberg, Univen, the Institute for Finance Management in Dar-es-Salaam and NM-AIST in Arusha, Tanzania.

It was presented in short formats of BarCamp and Hackathon. Prof Sabine Moebs of Duale Hochschule, Germany was the project coordinator.

Applications from Univen students were forwarded to the coordinating institution in Germany. Two students, Wiseman Ndlovu, a PhD candidate from the Institute for Rural Development and Promise Nyagunlu, undergraduate student from the Department of Development Studies, were successful. Mulalo Masisi, website content officer from the Communications and Marketing Department also lined the team.

The participants received a scholarship from the organisers that covered flight costs, visa fees and accommodation, while other travel expenses were contributed by the university.

For the Hackathon challenge students worked in international and interdisciplinary teams for a week. They then presented their results which were either an applicable solution or a workable prototype.

Results were either newly-developed software, a

device or a machine, a multi-media course or a training concept. The one-week staff and student innovation workshops between the countries included digitalisation in health insurance and AgriHub for SmartAgriculture. One of the ideas of the Univen team - high performance computing for public transport systems in South Africa and



On foreign soil - from left - Wiseman Ndlovu, Promise Nyalungu, Dr Segun Obadire and Mulalo Masisi in Arusha, Tanzania.

Tanzania - won first prize.

The next workshop will be held at Univen in the first semester of 2019.

Univen's Acting Director of International Relations, Dr Segun Obadire paid a courtesy call to the office of the NM-AIST Vice Chancellor, Prof Emmanuel Luoga. He also met with the Director: Admissions

and International Affairs, Dr Michael Haule and Prof Huldah Swai, the Director: African Centre for Research, Agricultural Advancement, Teaching Excellence and Sustainability.

The coordinator of the Exakt4You project at NM-AIST, Dr Gina Machuve, was also interested in further collaboration with Univen.



The Hackathon workshop challenge winners!

## Outreach programme addresses domestic violence

"We cannot talk about criminology without talking about the victims themselves," says the President of the Criminological Society of Africa, Prof Jaco Barkhuizen.

Speaking at the recent domestic violence community outreach programme at Gondeni Ha Mabilu village, Barkhuizen said the Domestic Violence Act responds to the high incidence of domestic violence in South Africa.

"It attempts to protect victims by making provision for the issuing of protection orders. The Act recognises that domestic violence is not a private matter, it is a serious crime against the society."

The programme was presented with Univen's Department of Criminology in partnership with the Thohoyandou South African Police Services cluster and the Limpopo Department of Safety and Security.

Barkhuizen said the Act gives greater protection to victims by broadening the definition of domestic violence.

"It includes not only married women and children, but also unmarried women who are involved in relationships or living together, people in same-sex



Tshigombela dance performed by community members.



Stakeholders mingle with the Thohoyandou cluster choir.



Univen Criminal Justice staff members, students and stakeholders.

relationships, mothers who live in fear of their sons and people sharing the same living space.

Major-General Mulaudzi of the South African Police Service Thohoyandou cluster highlighted the role of the police in domestic violence.

"We should work closer together with the Criminological Society of Africa to deal with domestic violence in communities.

"We don't only arrest, but we also strive to bring peace in the communities through patrolling day and night, going to places like clubs, bottle stores, shopping centres and churches to make sure that there is peace."

Mulaudzi said that the one challenge that the police encounters is that people report cases, yet they don't want the police to arrest the perpetrators.

"They want the police to solve their problems, so our duty is to solve issues through arrests and prosecution. We also have men who are abused but they don't want to report it to the police as they are scared of what will people say or think of them. Report police officers who laugh at you when you report crime."

"The Domestic Violence Act has been amended to prevent domestic violence in our homes and communities," said Nemakwarani Tshilidzi of the Department of Community Safety.

"The Act includes any form of abuse like physical, sexual, emotional, psychological or economic harassment, damage to property, as well as stalking or entry into a person's property without their consent. It also includes any other abusive or controlling behaviour where such conduct causes harm or may cause harm to your health, safety, or well-being.

"We have launched a campaign 'Break the silence', to enable people to report offenders and to stop embracing abuse. The campaign provides clear direction on how to respond to a complaint of domestic violence to comply with the obligations in terms of the Domestic Violence Act."

"All partnering stakeholders empower communities by educating them about their rights," said the Head of Univen's Criminal Justice Department, Dr Kholofelo Mothibi.

"Domestic violence is our departmental priority and we should equip everyone with knowledge and skills to deal with different types of offences that are happening within communities, and particularly in our homes."

"We have a mandate to eradicate domestic violence in our communities," said the Director of Civilian Oversight of the Department of Community Safety, Kutso Matthew Bopape.

"The provincial government encourages us to teach people about the importance of their rights. We visit different communities and assist them to fight domestic violence."

"The Victim Empowerment Programme addresses the social problems that happen in almost every household," said Ms Masutha of the Department of



Univen Criminal Justice staff members, Chief Mikosi and Major-General Mulaudzi.



Thohoyandou SAPS cluster choir entertaining the audience.



Praying to cure domestic violence - Pastor Thatwana Mutshutshu.

Social Development.

"Community members must be the eye and the ear of the community as this will help solve problems faced by community members."

"A protection order prevents the recurrence of domestic violence or sexual harassment by stating the conduct that the alleged offender must refrain from," said

Sharon Madida of the Department of Justice.

"If a respondent complies with the protection order, the complainant will be safe. If the respondent contravenes any stipulation of the protection order, the respondent may be arrested. Once a protection order is granted, it is enforceable throughout the country."

Joyce Madavha of the Department of Correctional Services explained the rehabilitation processes of victims.

"The department helps arrested people based on the needs they require. It involves them in different programmes that will help them to deal with the crimes they have committed."

Dzhivhuwo Jade of the Department of Community said a J88 form is a legal document that must be completed by a medical doctor or registered nurse. The form documents injuries sustained by the victim in any circumstance where a legal investigation is to be conducted.



# National Science Week helps deepen democracy

‘Deepening our democracy through science’ was the theme of this year’s National Science Week – celebrated at Univen’s Vuwani Science Resource Centre by schools around Thohoyandou and Vuwani.

Welcoming learners, Univen’s Director of Communications and Marketing, Takalani Dzaga said National Science Week inspires learners to study science related courses.

“Univen is awaiting your applications to further your education.”

“The Vuwani Science Resource Centre engages with you and educates you about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics,” said the centre’s coordinator, Dr Eric Maluta.

Robert Tshikwama of the centre’s Indigenous Knowledge System Documentation Centre said the centre provides protection, development and promotes indigenous knowledge systems.

“It also provides basic computer skills to the community,” said Rodney Ramaru.

“Learners should use the facility to apply online for enrolment at institutions of higher learning, in particular the University of Venda.”



**Launching Science Week** - Dr Simiso Moyo (left) and Senior Prof Georges Ekosse with learners from local schools.



**Gathering facts at the official Launch of National Science Week.**



**Learners testing scientifically designed chairs at the Vuwani Science Resource Centre.**



**Learners experimenting with scientific instruments**



**Learners and teachers getting facts.**



**Electric energy – at work!**

## Number of men declining worldwide

“Out of 7,8 billion people in the world, 5,6 billion are female and only 2,2 billion are male,” says Dr Maxwell Masakona.

A guest speaker at Univen’s recent Men’s Health Day, Masakona, a former teacher and pastor, said men need to deal with the odds that decrease the male species.

“While male numbers are less, the majority of deaths on a daily basis involve men. Be creative at work, earn respect, do not demand it. Manage your temper and take corrections at ease. Love your wives.”

“This event helps create a healthy lifestyle for University employees,” said the Director of Human Resources, Justice Manenzhe. “It is our duty to make sure that all employees are happy and healthy because happy employees are productive at work. We wish to make you aware of things that might be threatening your health.”

Speaking about domestic violence, Norman Mudau of the Thohoyandou Victim Empowerment said men are perceived as perpetrators of domestic violence.

“Issues like financial management, anger management, multiple

partners including secret lovers, jealousy, child negligence, low self-esteem, alcohol and drug abuse contribute to violence. Teach your children to respect one another. Communication is the only solution to avoid misunderstandings at home and at work,” he said.

“In my entire career I find that it is difficult for men to seek consultation,” said Dr Mpho Mpilo.

“Go for proper health check-ups at-least once every six months. Never ignore diseases with the hope that they will be okay. Some diseases can be cured if detected at an early stage. Stop consulting among yourselves when you are sick – consult a doctor,” said Mpilo.

Dr Takalani Makulana, a gynaecologist, said on average men just want to know simple and predictable things about women.

“Take care of your families and love your wives and children. Always be supportive to your wives or partners when they are going through difficulties that every woman may come across in her lifetime.”

Services available included HIV/AIDS testing and blood pressure and blood glucose testing services.

## Univen partners with Mine Health and Safety Council

Cooperation between Univen and the Mine Health and Safety Council was recently established.

The council established a Centre of Excellence to focus on strengthening domestic research collaboration by developing relationships with international and local research institutions.

With Univen, the council wishes to enhance three fields of cooperation - safety, occupational health and human factors.

Safety aspects would include rock falls, rock burst, explosions and fires, machinery and transport. Occupational health would include airborne pollutants, physical hazards and occupational diseases, while human factors would entail behavioural safety, including special projects.

Several schools will be engaged through the Directorate of Research and Innovation in developing research proposals.



**Fostering men’s health.**



**Joining forces for mine health and safety** - Mr Motloi and Senior Prof Ekosse.

## Saving our wetlands

Univen’s Universal Greening Organisation recently showcased its project to save and maintain wetlands.

The project entails removing solid waste materials and invasive species in the wetlands and industrial areas. Currently the organisation is surveying and raising awareness about the state of these wetlands and canvassing to get more stakeholders on board.

The South African National Biodiversity Institute, the Young Water Professionals and the Department of Environment Affairs are some of the participating organisations.

“The project offers assistance to remedy concerns in surrounding wetlands,” says the organisation’s Lindelani Maraganedzha.

“The Wangari Mutha Maathai Wetlands Rehab is a five-year project that is named after Wangari Mutha Maathai, a woman who was well-known for championing afforestation.

“Furthermore, the project is intended to create employment, assist Univen in becoming a town university and to integrate learning with practical work.”

“Most rivers in this country have been turned into illegal dumping sites,” said the organisation’s Chairperson, Talifhani Tshitwamulomoni.

“Most people drink raw water from these rivers, without even purifying or boiling. The project will reduce risks of the outbreak of diseases that can be caused by this kind of pollution.”

“Continue with community engagement projects - never give up on approaching relevant stakeholders for funding of such projects,” said Marubini Mugivhi of Limpopo Economic Development and Tourism.

The Thulamela Municipality has promised 50 sets of personal protective equipment for use on the project.



**Keeping it safe** - Univen students wearing protective equipment



# Colloquium reclaims education

“We question the relationship between mathematics and physics concepts held in second year mainstream courses and the aim is to develop a full understanding of the change from introductory first year to second year,” says Dr Honjiswa Conana of the University of the Western Cape.

Speaking at the recent 2018 extended curriculum programmes colloquium held at Univen, Conana said she trusted that her presentation would make a difference to how students tackle physics tasks in extended colloquium programmes.

Univen recently hosted the colloquium, themed ‘Reclaiming education’, an annual event that creates discourse among academics about challenges that arise and their solutions.

Conana, a teaching and learning specialist in Natural Sciences, said her presentation ‘Enabling access to the extended curriculum programmes undergraduate physics: Implication for curriculum and pedagogy’, highlighted the extent to which this curriculum and its associated pedagogy make a difference.

“Critical scholarship and research that reinforce university teaching and learning are compulsory to help enhance common sense,” said Nkosinathi Emmanuel Madondo of Rhodes University.

“Certain approaches are a shortcoming to students based on the fundamentals of teaching and learning in universities,” he said.

“Univen is passionate about education and bridging the gaps that currently exist within the educational



Meeting to enhance education.

system in universities,” said Univen’s acting Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Jan Crafford.

“Univen is also embarking on learning through the use of information communications technology. Through these newly introduced technologies, issues around overcrowded lecture halls can be a thing of the past.”

“I believe the colloquium will help reclaim the position of education in the wake of the Fees must Fall campaign but also help maintain the quality of education in South Africa,” said Univen’s Head of the Department of Professional Studies in the School of Education, Dr Mamotena Mpeta.

“The colloquium is timely and very relevant.”

“At some point universities fail to coordinate the selection and admission of extended curriculum programme students,” said Francois Marais of the University of the Free State.

“The selection and admission of these students in some universities is not well structured, causing

chaos during registration and causing terrible results for the institution at a later stage.”

108 delegates from 15 South African universities participated in the colloquium.

**Working team** - Local Organising Committee of the 2018 Extended Curriculum Programmes Colloquium.



Showing the way - colloquium ushers.

# You have the right to seek asylum – World Refugee Day

“Since 2015 nothing has changed regarding the crisis of displaced people worldwide,” says Dr Ademola Jegede, Lecturer in Univen’s School of Law. Speaking at the recent World Refugee Day event on the Univen campus, Jegede said the number of displaced people internationally keeps increasing. Their predicaments increase as they seek asylum and protection in other countries.”

“By communicating these facts and sharing information about the situation of refugees across the world, we provoke academic discourse on a person’s right to seek asylum,” said Ray Chikwanda of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees’ office in Musina.

‘Congo’s Curse’, a documentary screened at the meeting, depicted the human rights violations that ultimately lead to natives fleeing their country and the suffering of those who opted to remain. It addressed the violence against woman and children, poverty, overcrowding, perpetual wars and suffering.

At a panel discussion students were encouraged to ask questions concerning the issues of refugees globally. Participants included members from the refugee office, Univen’s School of Law and the Department of International Relations, the South African Human Rights Commission, the Public Protector of Limpopo, Lawyers for Human Rights

and the Department of Home Affairs Refugee reception office.

Students asked questions like what they could do to further the rights of refugees in South Africa. Panel members urged them to share information in their spheres of influence, volunteering and working to further refugee rights and accommodating and welcoming refugees at the university.

Another question referred to certain countries like Singapore that closed their borders to refugees in 1996. Panel members highlighted the challenges in implementing international instruments. In many countries, including South Africa, some immigration rules contradict the Bill of Rights and other laws. What was encouraging, however, was the resolve from governmental panel members to uphold the asylum space within South Africa.

The Department of Home Affairs’ refugee reception office was asked why they seemed unfriendly to asylum seekers when South Africa’s laws and policy welcomed refugees. The panel member said that unfriendliness was not government policy but could be linked to specific individual attitudes. Like in any other government department, any disgruntled person could seek support from centre managers or report to parallel government structures like the Public Protector or the South African Human Rights Council for remedy.

# Stronger ties between Univen and Botho

Univen’s International Relations Office and the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences recently welcomed five students from the Botho University in Botswana.

These students are on an exchange programme until the end of November.

“This relationship empowers students and staff from both partnering universities,” says Ndabezihle Soganile of Univen’s Department of Computer Sciences.

“The collaboration with Botho University started in 2014 and is growing every year.”

“Feel at home and do not isolate yourself from Univen,” said Univen Student Representative Council Minister of Communications, External Affairs and International Relations, Mapaseka Mokgaphane.

“Work together and learn from each other.”

Kabelo Sikele, a Student Representative from Botho University thanked the Univen organisers for the warm welcome.

“We will be on our best behaviour! We are committed and will participate in all your programmes with dedication.”



Flying the flags.



**“Computer Sciences is ready to strengthen this exchange programme”** - Ndabezihle Soganile.



**“Work together and learn from each other”** - Mapaseka Mokgaphane.



**“We will participate with dedication”** - Kabelo Sikele.



# Univen participates in global leadership summit



Dr Jay Naidoo, former cabinet minister and Prof Francis Petersen, Vice Chancellor of the University of the Free State at one of the panels.

More than 14 institutions around the globe attended the Global Leadership Summit at the University of the Free State recently.

The 2018 summit focused on higher education, student leadership and social transformation. Themed 'Comparative global leadership: social inclusion, social justice', one focus area was programme development for the anticipated new leadership for social justice programme at the University of the Free State.

The summit expects five participants - staff and students - per institution, to represent the university for possible networking and collaboration.

Univen's participants at the summit included four emerging researchers recommended by deans from two schools. Dr Segun Obadire, Acting Director: International Relations represented Univen management. Abstracts were required from each participant. Dr Obadire participated as a panellist, where he presented on 'Accessing the Buddy programme as a driver for social cohesion'.

The Rector and Vice Chancellor of the University of the Free State, Prof Francis Petersen officially opened the summit, followed by panel and roundtable discussions each day. These were facilitated by academics and special guests.

Themes included topics such as 'What is social justice leadership?',

which was led by Dr Jay Naidoo, former cabinet minister in the Nelson Mandela government.

Other topics were 'How can students and staff work with and lead on social inclusion/diversity in universities and in society?', 'Which capacities and capabilities should higher education focus on engaging and developing if we are to effect social change in society?' and 'Transformation and self-identity: student narratives in post-apartheid South Africa'.

In discussion were also topics like 'What is leadership in engaged scholarship?', 'From Crook's Corner to 'Peace Park'', 'The ongoing transformation of the Makumeke Local Community', 'Global leadership and human value: an international law perspective', 'Exploring leadership competencies for tourism's small medium enterprises' and many other interesting presentations and roundtable discussions.

Various participants were interested in collaborating with Univen, including Prof Allen Kim of the International Christian University in Japan, Dr Vivienne Felix of the New York University, Prof Dr Pornlapas Suwannarat of the Maharakham University in Thailand and Yeki Mosomothane of the University of Stellenbosch.



Univen participants stood their ground at the summit.



Dr Emma Charlene Lubaale presenting a group discussion.

## US-SA higher education network project expands



The Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Buti Manamela launched the project.

The University Capacity Development Programme to support the establishment of the United States-South Africa Higher Education Network was recently launched. The programme is funded by the Department of Higher Education and Training and the USA for over R6,7 million.

The project is a network of US and South African universities that addresses the needs in the South African higher education community and in the world. It encompasses the management of the US-SA Higher Education Network and the US-SA higher education doctoral initiative.

It has 12 cohorts with universities in the USA and South Africa participating. Univen is participating in four cohorts - Coordination of US-SA higher education projects namely the University of Pretoria, Rutgers University-Network, the USA and Univen, Mountain research namely the University of the Free State, the Appalachian State University, the Montana University, the Colorado State University and Univen, Global health namely the University of the Free State, the University of Virginia and Univen and Sustainable environmental namely the University of Cape Town, the University of Fort Hare and Univen.



Prof Jan Crafford, Dr Zhou, Dr Nethengwe, Leigh Cobban and Dr Segun Obadire with colleagues from partnering universities.

It is anticipated that the coordinating entities for this US-SA higher education network will facilitate the growth of a doctoral candidate pool in South Africa. This would also create exchange opportunities for faculty, staff and students. It could also advance the South Africa higher education transformation agenda by encouraging support for the Department of Higher Education and Training's University Capacity Development Programme. This would be possible by developing

a network of institutions in the USA and South Africa to build exchange opportunities and shared infrastructure development. The project will run for four years.

Project implementation strategies and the way forward were discussed where project coordinators presented their plans and progress thus far. The ability to leverage on the Department of Higher Education and Training for funding sponsors and supporters was also discussed.

## Career guidance for Sambandou Circuit

About 300 grade 12 learners of the Sambandou Circuit recently attended a Univen career guidance event.

"If you don't have a dream to achieve something good, you are going nowhere," said the Sambandou Circuit Manager, Livhuwani Phophi.

"Giving up should not be an option. Overcome challenges that you might come across in your journey. Never stop dreaming until you have achieved your goals," he said.

"Application to study at Univen in 2019 is still open until 28 September," said Univen's Assistant Schools Liaison Officer, Justice Lebopa.

"Visit the university's website to make online applications."

Lucas Bopape of the Department of Education encouraged grade 12 learners to consider teaching as a qualification when making career decisions.

"Teachers are doing a good job in developing our society and the economy. Everyone is a

product of teachers. Apply for Funza Lushaka bursaries which pay for students who are studying towards a teaching qualification.

"Listen to your parent's advice if you want to succeed. No-one can climb a ladder with hands in their pockets. People who advise you, love you. Tell yourself that you can do it and that you are here to be successful," said Bopape.

"It is possible," said Ronald Mutshinyalo.

"You are the only person who can change your family background through one weapon - education."

"I struggled to get education because I did not have study fees, but you are lucky today because our government is trying its best to support you. What they need from you is better marks and willingness to further your studies."

Representatives of the South African Police Services, the Department of Health, educators, unions and representatives of the Limpopo Department of Education attended the event.



**Sambandou gathering** – front, from left: Sambandou Circuit Manager, Livhuwani Phophi, Dr Alidzuli and Department of Education representatives. Back: Educators and grade 12 learners from Sambandou Circuit secondary schools.



# Encouraging grade 12 learners to apply at Univen

“You must read until it hurts for you to have a bright future.” So says Univen’s School of Education Professor, Takalani Mashau.

Speaking at the recent Univen and Mulenzhe Development Trust careers guidance and information day, Mashau said learners fail because they consider rights without responsibility, business without ethics, science without humanity, politics without principles and education without heart.

Univen’s Schools Liaison Office and the Student Administration team used the opportunity to market the university’s programmes. They encouraged grade 12 learners to apply for tertiary education training before the closing date of 28 September.

While Univen’s Chief Administrative Officer: Student Administration, Seth Ugoda, informed learners about the university’s online application system, the Assistant Schools Liaison Officer, Justice Lebopa, outlined programmes offered by schools at the university.

Other participating institutions were the Vhembe Technical Vocational Education and Training College, the Transport Education Training Authority and the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism.



**Join Univen** – front: representatives of the Mulenzhe Royal Council. Back: Univen staff, organisation representatives and educators.



*Mr Sinthumule of Univen’s Department of Finance outlining NSFAS application procedures.*



**Soaking up information** - Grade 12 learners of the Johannesburg Ramavhoya, Mukhwanteli and Movhe high schools listening to speakers.

# 67 Minutes to Madiba in style

“Mandela became the superior of his oppressors,” says Univen’s Acting Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Jan Crafford.

Speaking at the 18 July Mandela celebrations that are celebrated globally, Crafford said the international statesman’s demanding of respect, using time wisely, not worrying about labels, being humble and taking a stand against injustice will always be remembered.

“We should never be controlled by emotions, but rather overrule them with a clear mind.”

The day was organised by the School of Human and Social Sciences in collaboration with Struu Artzz Entertainment and Univen’s Art and Culture section.

“It is now time for the youth to play their rightful role,” said the Chairperson of the School of Human and Social Sciences Council, Hakamela Tsundzukani.



*Watching ‘Umoya: The Spirit’.*

“Apart from the tremendous work done by Nelson Mandela, he also showed gratitude to his fellow comrades who helped fight for the freedom the world is now celebrating. Even though South Africa is now free and liberated from apartheid, there are still certain outstanding issues, like expropriation of land without compensation that will need the black youth to play their role.”

A dialogue session saw speakers discussing ‘Building on the legacy of Nelson Mandela’ – and how the black youth can further expand on the already existing legacy of Mandela.

A play, ‘Umoya: The Spirit’, directed by Univen student Kgaogelo Matsie, was performed by the Univen Art and Culture section and Struu Artzz. The play, that debuted at the 2018 Grahamstown National Arts Festival, addresses the importance of women in society in relation to cultural values, beliefs and practices.



*Gin Daily and TBC kept the crowd entertained through poetry and music.*

# Univen and University of Zimbabwe renew partnership

Univen and the Great Zimbabwe University met recently to renew their memorandum of understanding.

The original memorandum was signed in 2008 by Prof Obert Edward Maravanyika, then Vice Chancellor of the Great Zimbabwe University and the then Registrar of Univen, Khuliso Nemadzivhanani.

This collaboration furthers the academic objectives of both institutions and promotes better understanding between faculties, schools and students. Other common interests include the exchange of faculty members and students, joint research activities, participation in seminars and academic meetings, the exchange of academic materials and other information and staff development fellowships.

Univen participants included the Acting Director of International Relations, Dr Segun Obadire, Dr Mkhacani Chauke, Head of the MER Mathivha Centre for African Languages, Arts and Culture and Dr Crous Hlungwane, also of the centre and coordinator of the project.

Lessons from the Great Zimbabwe University

The teaching of Tshivenda and Xitsonga at the Great Zimbabwe University by the University of Venda’s MER Mathivha Centre staff members started in 2008. Four staff members initiated the process which started with 25 students – nine for Tshivenda and 16 for Xitsonga.

At the welcome ceremony in June 2008, the Univen team presented the Zimbabwe University’s Vice Chancellor, Prof Maravanyika with books in Tshivenda and Xitsonga, donated by different publishing companies in South Africa.

Several students graduated at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels between 2012 and 2018. By 2013, 18 students in Tshivenda and 11 in Xitsonga graduated with honours degrees from Univen.

Between 2013 and 2017, eight students in Tshivenda and seven in Xitsonga graduated with master’s degrees from Univen.

From students graduating from Univen, six have been appointed as Tshivenda and Xitsonga lecturers at the Great Zimbabwe University.

At PhD level, three students graduated from Univen - two in Tshivenda and one in Xitsonga. These graduates started at the Great Zimbabwe University as first- entering students who never had an opportunity to study their languages in the foundation, intermediate and senior phases.

Currently, there are three students, two for Xitsonga and one for Tshivenda, who are doing PhD degrees.

Staff development

Various Great Zimbabwe University staff members benefitted from the collaboration of the two institutions. Dr Denhere, Prof Mdlovosi and Dr Gonye graduated with PhD’s in Education,

Psychology and English respectively at Univen. Denhere and Mdlovosi were appointed as part-time lecturers during their studies at Univen.

Mr Nhamo and Mr Bebe are currently enrolled for PhD degrees in African studies and Siswati respectively at Univen.

Joint research and conference attendance

Dr Babane has jointly published an article in the 2013 SAFOS journal with Mr Mapindani, a staff member from the Great Zimbabwe University, from his 2011 Honours article.

Dr Babane, Dr Chauke, Dr Mphasha and Dr Mushwana presented papers at a conference on names held in Victoria falls, Zimbabwe in September 2012.

Three staff members from the Great Zimbabwe University - Dr Makaudze, Mr Ndlovu and Mr Mandowa - presented papers at an ALASA conference held at Univen in 2012, while Dr Hlungwani jointly presented a paper with Dr Madlome at the ALASA conference held at the Walter Sisulu University in June 2014.

The results of the initial memorandum of understanding between the two universities in 2008 are evident, hence the recent renewal thereof.

In June this memorandum was signed by Univen’s Acting Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Jan Crafford, while the Deputy Dean of the Faculty of African Languages, Amos Mushati and the Director

of the Centre for Africa Languages, Sambulo Ndlovu, signed on behalf of the Great Zimbabwe University.



**It’s a deal** - Prof Jan Crafford and Mr Sambulo Ndlovu signing the memorandum of understanding between Univen and the Great Zimbabwe University.



**A collegial moment** - Amos Mushati, Prof Jan Crafford, Sambulo Ndlovu and Dr Segun Obadire.

# University Town concept on the right track

To improve the quality of the lives of surrounding communities living in Thohoyandou and of the Univen community, the university recently hosted a University Town concept stakeholder workshop.

“We believe the University Town concept will improve the economy of this area,” says Univen’s acting Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Jan Crafford.

“This concept is not only about Univen and the Thulamela Municipality, as even surrounding communities should be involved to benefit. Univen is moving to make this concept a reality as we subscribe to the ideals of a smart campus. Students should enjoy the quality of life with safety and support from both the university and the municipality.”

“The Thulamela Municipality is to transform Thohoyandou into a city by 2030,” said the

municipality’s Humbelani Nemadzhilili.

“We are aware that our road network needs to be improved, that will allow free flow of traffic as Thohoyandou has grown and is now experiencing traffic jams during peak hours. We will also give attention to poorly maintained roads and buildings.

“Property developers should not to hesitate to contact the municipality about abandoned government buildings in Sibasa, Tshilamba and Thohoyandou. There are special task teams to ensure compliance in upgrading and renovating these buildings, in line with the Integrated Development Plan,” he said.

“The University Town concept arose from the challenge that the Minister of Higher Education and Training had posed four years ago,” said the Dean of the School of Environmental Sciences, Prof John Odiyo.

“We have benchmarked with Stellenbosch University and Stellenbosch municipality. We now need to transfer this concept to a more viable and practical implementation plan.”

The Head of Univen’s Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Dr James Chakwizira, presented a literature review of the concept and the links between scientific knowledge, research, innovation and entrepreneurship.

“We should work as a team to reap the rewards of this project.”

The workshop presented suggestions on innovative educational systems, integrated planning and sustainable development, environment, health and safety issues and innovation and indigenous knowledge systems.

*After a hard day’s work.*



*Group discussions render master plans.*



## We would like to hear from you!

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