



Dr Bernard Nthambeleni officially opens and hand over Student Centre Building to Student Affairs



Student Centre building that was officially opened by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal

On Tuesday, 27 August 2019, The University of Venda's Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni officially opened the Student Centre building. The official opening of this building took place at the entrance of the Student Centre.

"We request you to take full ownership of and pride in this building so that it can house many generations of student leaders to come."



Dr Bernard Nthambeleni cutting the ribbon



Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Operations, Dr Robert Martin expressed the moment as the one that everyone has been waiting for. He congratulated the team that actively participated in the construction of the building. Dr Martin further congratulated everyone who worked tirelessly in making sure that this building is completed. "We hope that the student leaders occupying this building will use it for academic purposes."



Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Prof Jan Crafford said that the University Management is happy that they can officially open and hand over to Student Affairs this new building. Prof Crafford told SRC members that this building must not ever become a political headquarters. "We request you to take full ownership of and pride in this building so that it can house many generations of student leaders to come." He told the audience that this building should become an incubator for innovations in student governance and service delivery to the students of UNIVEN.

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SRC President, Mr Tsundzuka Hakamela, said he was delighted to be part of the team that officially opened a building that will benefit all students. He said, "today is a beautiful day because we have new offices which will make impact by motivating student leaders to work tirelessly". Mr Hakamela further advised SRC members to work harder in making sure that they build a campus of their dream.



L-R: Prof Nancy Mutshaeni, Prof Jan Crafford, Mr Lufuno Tshikhudo, Mr Tsundzuka Hakamela, Dr Bernard Nihambeleni, and Dr Robert Martin posing for a photo next to the plaque outside the Student Centre



The Director Student Affairs, Mr Lufuno Tshikhudo thanked the Management for handing this building to them. He assured the Management that this building will be taken care of by his Office and SRC members. He urged students to take care of this building and encouraged all students to protect it even during protests.



SRC President, Mr Tsundzuka Hakamela in his new office during a tour of the building



Dr Bernard Nihambeleni unveiling and reading the Plaque



UNIVEN proudly hosts an award-winning film maker to break infertility silence in black communities

In celebrating women's month, on Thursday, 08 August 2019, the School of Law hosted the exclusive screening of international award-winning documentary 'When Babies Don't Come'. The film is about the 10-year struggle of a woman from Tzaneen who was trying to get pregnant with no success. The screening of this documentary took place at the University Library Hall.



A photograph taken during the screening of 'When babies don't come'

The documentary takes the viewers through the pain and struggles that women and men are going through during infertility struggle. These are the hardships that no one will share with other people. The film allows the viewers to understand their struggles socially, culturally, religiously, legally and economically. Ms Molatelo Mainetje whom the documentary is about and the film maker, was also present and she shared and discussed her story as she 'breaks the silence on infertility'.

Molatelo discovered that she was infertile in 2006, eight years after having an ectopic pregnancy while she was still a student at the University of Limpopo. She said the doctors who treated her didn't explain to her about the consequences of the ectopic pregnancy

and that she needed to get her other fallopian tube checked in order to assess her ability to conceive naturally in future. As a result, Molatelo lived with the assumption that she still had time to conceive naturally, whereas, her remaining tube had very limited life span due to its weaknesses. When she finally decided to start a family with her partner, she learned that she could not conceive naturally anymore – a situation that could have been prevented with early detection.

Molatelo said that, by documenting her infertility journey, she hopes to reach women who are going through similar issues. "I would like to break the silence surrounding infertility. By so doing, I would be dealing with stigma around infertility," she said.



Molatelo Mainetje engaging with the attendees

When talking to the audience about her journey of trying to have her biological children, Molatelo said this is the documentation of her ten-year struggle. She said although this was not part of her life plans, but she has opted to consider adopting a child. She advised the viewers and audience to never be intimidated by what other people are saying about them. "live your life the way you want and never live your life to please other people. Don't live to impress other people but rather impress yourself." Molatelo continued to explain that, looking at her journey that she has travelled, she has come to accept the results that she can't bear children. "Making of the film was the therapy for myself. I am thankful because I have a strong support structure" - referring to her husband, family and relatives because they have accepted her condition. She said the support structure is the most important pillar for anyone who is going through difficult challenges in life.



Deputy Dean of the School of Law, Dr Kholofelo Mothibi said she is very humbled to see the film maker who is also the storyteller choosing to screen this documentary for the first time at UNIVEN. Dr Mothibi wished Molatelo best of luck in her journey of trying to have her own children and commended her for being the strong woman she is. "Continue to inspire all women. Your strength and courage will inspire many people out there."



Customary law expert and Lecturer at UNIVEN, Ms Zama Mopai explained that it is sad that, as society we have not created safe environment for people struggling with infertility to speak openly about the issue. Ms Mopai said that through the documentary she has discovered so much that can help most people. She told Molatelo that her documentary has and will still give people new eyes to see, new language to speak about infertility and an informed perspective into the hardships of infertility. Ms Mopai and other audience questioned the need to call people according to their children's names as we do in our communities. They argued that perhaps it is time we realized that doing so in itself may be an indirect discrimination for women and men who do not have children as they remain to be called by their first names - as seen in one of the episodes of the documentary.



L-R: Ms Khethiwe Madina, Ms Crystal Mokoena, Dr Kholofelo Mothibi (Deputy Dean School of Law), Ms Zama Mopai, Ms Molatela Mainetja and Dr Eielwani Ramaite posing for a photo after the screening of the documentary

"live your life the way you want and never live your life to please other people. Don't live to impress other people but rather impress yourself."

Dr Bernard Nthambeleni is thrilled by the SARChI Museum and Resource Centre

On Wednesday, 21 August 2019, University of Venda (UNIVEN) Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni accompanied by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic, Prof Jan Crafford and the Director Research and Innovation, Senior Prof Georges-Ivo Ekosse took a tour around the SARChI Museum and Resource Centre at the University's Life Sciences building.



UNIVEN Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni appreciated the work that has been done so far by the SARChI chair. "I do recall some few years ago (2011-2012) when the Minister of Higher Education and Training allocate funds to establish 62 SARChI chairs" Dr Nthambeleni continued to explain that the funds were intended to improve the Historically Disadvantaged Institutions of higher learning. "I am pleased that UNIVEN was awarded two chairs," said Dr Nthambeleni.

He added that having this tour to witness the great achievements, he is delighted. "This programme was introduced to ensure that all institutions of higher learning in South Africa can be globally competitive. I am happy to see that UNIVEN has talented, credible researchers and scientists who are doing incredible work in heading this Museum."



Dr Colin Schoeman giving Dr Bernard Nthambeleni a brief explanation on SARChI Museum

Dr Colin Schoeman shared a short history of how Prof Peter Taylor who is the SARChI Biodiversity Chair started the museum. He explained that the SARChI Chair had his vision for a little museum as part of the University to support education and research.



"We have worked so hard with dedication to ensure that this museum becomes a reality," said Prof Peter Taylor while rendering a brief overview of the SARChI Biodiversity progress and plans. He added that, in the past five years they have trained 500 participants in skills workshops and seminars and in the next five years in terms of biodiversity, they have planned to bring culture and nature close to the society.



Dr Aluwani Nengovhela

On behalf of postgraduate students and PhD candidates, Dr Aluwani Nengovhela commended the SARChI staff members for giving them a platform to conduct their research. "As students who embark on different projects, we know we cannot do everything on our own, but we are thankful to have the University's support to ensure that our projects become a success," she said.



Dr Colin Schoeman showing Dr Bernard Nthambeleni some of the biological species through the microscope



In his vote of thanks, on the behalf of the Dean of the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences, Deputy Dean of the School, Prof Peter Tshisikhawe said that the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences considered Dr Nthambeleni's visit to the School as an honour. "We believe that the school will receive more support," he said.



Staff members from the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences photographed at the SARChI museum and resource centre with UNIVEN management

The South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI)

The South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) was established in 2006 by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the National Research Foundation (NRF). It is designed to attract and retain excellence in research and innovation at South African public universities through the establishment of Research Chairs at public universities in South Africa with a long-term investment trajectory of up to fifteen years.

<https://www.nrf.ac.za/division/rcce/instruments/research-chairs>

Africa Institute Of South Africa (AISA) Introducing UNIVEN to Africa Insight - a Peer-Reviewed Journal

On Wednesday, 31 July 2019, staff of the Directorate of Research and Innovation (DRI) hosted colleagues from the Africa Institute of South Africa (AISA) which is the publications conduit of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC). The purpose of the visit was for the colleagues to acquaint researchers of UNIVEN of the **Africa Insight** Journal and encourage UNIVEN researchers to publish their research findings in it.



Senior Professor GE Ekosse, Director of Research and Innovation

In his opening remarks, Director of Research and Innovation (Senior Professor GE Ekosse), confirmed to participants that **Africa Insight**, is an accredited, quarterly, peer-reviewed journal by the South African National Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and is indexed in the International Bibliography of Social Science (IBSS). It is a peer-reviewed multi-disciplinary journal primarily focusing on contemporary socio-economic and political issues and changes in African countries. It has not been, in any form, considered to be predatory.



Ms Mmakwena Chipu, Acting Director: AISA Publications making her presentation

In her presentation in encouraging UNIVEN researchers to publish in **Africa Insight**, Acting Director: AISA (Ms Mmakwena Chipu), assured colleagues that the work



Senior Professor GE Ekosse and DRI staff with AISA - HSRC colleagues

of the institute makes a contribution to addressing many dimensions of research in Africa thereby reversing the marginality, in global terms, of knowledge production in the continent. According to Ms. Chipu, the HSRC is committed to publishing cutting-edge research that supports development nationally, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Africa.

Unsolicited contributions to **Africa Insight** are welcome. The ideal paper should be interesting, accessible and rigorous. It should be noted that **Africa Insight** is an independent publication which promotes insight into the process of change in Africa covering a wide range of diverse topics like, political trends and events, democratization, economic issues, regional cooperation, international relations, conflict resolution, aspects of education and training, health hazards, community development, food security, institutional capacity building, etc.

"the HSRC is committed to publishing cutting-edge research that supports development nationally, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Africa."

Microbial taxa to repair gut microbiota in young children identified – a Science Magazine publication reveals



Professor Pascal Bessong, Director of the HIV/AIDS and Global Health Research Programme (HAGH) at the University of Venda

In a new article, that appeared in the highly-influential journal *Science*, of 12 July 2019, collaborating with researchers from the University of Washington, Seattle (USA) and others, the observations from MAL-ED South Africa have contributed to findings on microbial taxa (a group of organisms that form a unit) that are involved in the development of the gut microbiota in healthy children from low socio-economic backgrounds. Microbiota refers to the ensemble of microorganisms in a particular ecological niche. Professor Pascal

Bessong, Director of the HIV/AIDS & Global Health Research Programme (HAGH) at the University of Venda, lead investigator of MAL-ED South Africa and a co-author of the article says, the findings are highly significant,

Collaborating for learners' future



Assistant Schools Liaison Officer Justice Lebopa addressing learners at Shingwedzi Secondary school during the National Science Week

Following the official opening of the 2019 National Science Week that took place on 29 July 2019 at Vuwani Science Resource Centre, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) team took to the road into villages, manifesting one of the three pillars of the University stands which is community outreach. Whilst the first two days were spent at the centre in Vuwani, allowing a list of selected schools to visit the centre, Wednesday of the same week was spent at Shingwedzi High School in Malamulele Circuit where 3 schools were hosted. On the fourth day, Luvuvhini Secondary, Zoutpansberg West Circuit hosted 10 schools whilst on the fifth day, seven schools were hosted at Malilele Secondary School in Shakadza, Niani Circuit.

Addressing learners from Zoutpansberg South Circuit hosted at Luvuvhini Secondary School, Mr Siavhe encouraged learners to go and study because studying while there is still time will prepare them for the upcoming examinations.

During the visits to hosting schools around Vhembe District, the programme included, amongst others, techno quiz, demonstrations and experiments led by UNIVEN students and lecturers.



Physics Curriculum Coordinator for Vhembe West District, Mr Siavhe, addressing learners at Luvuvhini Secondary School

Once learners were taken through some formal sessions on their syllabus, they were addressed by a member of the UNIVEN Schools Liaison team who shared with them the opportunities and admission requirements at UNIVEN.



The Programme Director Mr Sampie Mathebe briefing learners outside the classrooms before they attend the science experimental sessions



UNIVEN Schools Liaison Officer, Mr Takalani Nyelisani addressing learners on admission requirements as well as sharing programmes available



Science demonstrations by Vuwani Science Resource Centre interns



Coordinator of Vuwani Science Resource Centre, Dr Eric Maluta addressing learners on climate change at Malilele Secondary



Shingwedzi High School Grade 12 learners busy with Physical Science experiments coordinated by Vuwani Science Resource Centre interns



UNIVEN Schools Liaison Officer, Mr Takalani Nyelisani expressed his appreciation for the collaboration, which he believes will assist at length to create interest amongst learners from rural-based schools to consider studying courses that have frustrated most learners who do not have access to Science laboratories and educators. He believes that there is a need for every school at UNIVEN to consider ways to team up with the Schools Liaison Office in order to develop unique strategies for recruitment of learners from targeted schools and communities. "With the threat of the 4th Industrial Revolution, we need to work together to prepare our learners to consider careers and programmes that will help them survive and be relevant to the era. The collaboration with Vuwani Science Resource Centre is one of the ways in which we encourage learners to consider studying for areas with scarce skills, especially in Science and Technology", said Nyelisani.

"As Vuwani Science Resource Centre, we look forward to using these strategies to reach out to learners in deprived communities, and to increase our annual registration targets in the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences. We also use the National Science Week as an awareness campaign to alert learners on the importance of Science and Technology based on the theme for each year," said the Coordinator of Vuwani Science Resource Centre, Dr Eric Maluta.

Common at all venues, with the challenge of lack of laboratories and bigger halls, learners were divided into manageable groups to ensure that they were given sufficient as well as equal opportunities, those learners that were not in demonstration classes were treated to some entertainment with science games and demonstrations of different topics.

Sessions varied with motivational talks by UNIVEN Environmental Sciences PhD candidate and artist, Mulalo "Bamba Muphandi" Mutoti who shared with learners the journey of his life. Bamba discouraged learners to allow their music talents and interest to preoccupy their life without similarly pursuing same dream for education. "Talents are good, and they must be nurtured; but, without these being backed up by education, they can easily fade into nothing. I take my education very seriously", said Bamba. Whilst listening to Bamba, learners were given a treat to some of his well-known and appreciated musical tracks.

Directorate of Research and Innovation continues to promote research ethics to its pole position

On Tuesday, 30 July 2019, the University of Venda (UNIVEN)'s Directorate of Research and Innovation hosted the Research Ethics Workshop to promote research ethics. This workshop was held under the theme: "Promoting Research Ethics to its pole position". The workshop was delivered by members of the Research Ethics Committees and Library. A total 54 participants categorized of Postgraduate Students (40) and Researchers/Staff (14) attended the workshop. The workshop focused on the importance of ethics and application procedure of ethical clearance in the University of Venda.

The objectives of the workshop included: Reflection upon participants' understanding of the nature of research ethics and integrity; engagement with the nature of postgraduate students' academic responsibilities and the international nature of the research ethics practices. The workshop covered the following Importance of Ethics in Research; Brief Overview of Research Ethics Applications at UNIVEN; How to complete R7a and R7 Ethics Application and Consequences of Plagiarism/Predatory Publishing.

When opening and welcoming the attendees of the workshop, Prof VO Netshandama who is the chairperson of the University Research Ethics Committee (UREC) welcomed the participants of the workshop on behalf of the University management who were attending a meeting with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). She urged the participants to have a fruitful and interactive session ahead.



Facilitators with participants of the workshop



Prof VO Netshandama the chairperson of the University Research Ethics Committee (UREC)

Prof Vhonani Netshandama began her presentation with an open discussion with participants about what they already know about ethics in general, and these were some of the responses the participants gave: - "Ethics is about doing things the right way, having moral principles, doing things accordingly and following protocol". She continued with her interactive presentation where she indicated that ethics should talk to the soul of the researcher which means doing the right thing all the time even when no one is looking.

Prof Netshandama and Participants went on to discuss further on how ethics is important in research, stating how researchers should always protect and respect the dignity of their research participants and always treat personal information in a confidential manner.

Throughout her presentation, Prof Netshandama emphasized on the importance of how ethically all researches should be scientifically sound – that the research methods and procedures should be described such that someone should be able to replicate, trace and or verify. She further highlighted the integrity as all-encompassing the principles of Carefulness, Mindfulness, Openness, Transparency, Confidentiality and Responsible Publication. It involves above all a commitment to intellectual honesty and personal responsibility for one's actions.

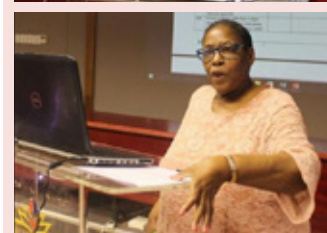
In Closing, Prof Netshandama pleaded with the participants to respect Intellectual Property as an important ethical issue during research. She particularly emphasised respect for Indigenous knowledge as well as research with marginalised population. She also emphasized that students/researchers should make it a priority to apply for ethical clearance before starting their research.

"Ethics is about doing things the right way, having moral principles, doing things accordingly and following protocol".



Research Administration Coordinator: Mrs NJ Sigama

The Research Administration Coordinator: Mrs Julia Sigama gave a presentation on the Brief Overview of Research Ethics Application processes at UNIVEN, the presentation highlighted the process of packaging and submissions of documents for processing of ethical clearance certificate. She further discussed the importance of attaining ethical clearance before the commencement of research as the Research Ethics Committee will not provide retrospective ethical clearance to either staff or students.



The Chairperson of the Animal, Environment and Biosafety Committee: Prof I.E.J. Barnhoorn and Member of the Human and Clinical Trials Research Ethics Committee Prof R.T. Lebesse

The Chairperson of the Animal, Environment and Biosafety Committee: Prof I.E.J. Barnhoorn and the member of the Human and Clinical Trials Research Ethics Committee Prof R.T. Lebesse made presentations on how to complete the different application forms namely the R7a/R7 where they highlighted the importance of correctly completing the application form, in the presentations it was further stressed that applicants must avoid referring reviewers to proposals instead of answering the questions as required in the form.

Directorate of Research and Innovation continues to promote research ethics to its pole position continued...



Participants during the Workshop



Dr TA Matodzi presented the Consequences of Plagiarism/Predatory Publishing during the workshop. She described plagiarism as the unjustified presentation of another person's intellectual property as a product of one's own mind. In her presentation the consequences of plagiarism include a destroyed professional or academic reputation, lawsuits, revoked awards, revoked titles, academic degrees, legal repercussions, absolute copyright laws – author can sue. She further indicated that authors can be granted monetary restitution and sometimes it can be deemed criminal offense with a jail sentence. UNIVEN deploys plagiarism detection software named Turnitin to eradicate all forms of plagiarism.

She also indicated the various consequences of predatory publishing which included waste of research, ripple effect, brand cost, permanent stain: academic record tainted amongst others. She concluded her presentation by talking about predatory publishing and advised participants on how to spot and avoid publishing from a predatory journal.



During the closing of the workshop, Mrs Livhuwani Priscilla Nemaangani, the Research Administration Officer in the Directorate of Research and Innovation gave a reflection about the success of the ethics workshop and thanked all the facilitators for their fruitful and effective presentations.



Dr Nkhangweni Mahwasane to hoist Univen flag in China



As we are celebrating women's month, the University is delighted to announce that our very own Dr Nkhangweni Mahwasane, who is a Librarian, will fly to

Dalian, China to represent the University of Venda (Univen) during the World

Education Day Assembly 2019 (WEDA-2019). The conference will be held from 27 to 29 September 2019 at International Conference Center which is the Official Venue for Summer Davos World Economic Forum.

Dr Mahwasane will present her paper titled: 'Reading activities and programmes required to encourage Grade three learners to develop the reading interest in Vhembe District in Limpopo Province.'

"On the same conference, I will also launch my two books that I have authored namely: 'Understanding libraries and reading among children' and 'An overview of the roles and benefits of libraries', Mahwasane explained.

She added that no proper education without libraries and we cannot talk about studying, reading and learning without touching libraries.

Dr Mahwasane will also chair one of the sessions during the conference.

Throughout the conference, the WEDA-2019 participants will be exposed to the latest trend of education industry while experts from different countries will share their latest skills in transferring education through modern technologies.

The three-day conference comprises of nine (9) professional programs including Educational Leadership Summit, Confucius Institute Forum, Formal Education, Alternative Education, International Education Forum, Innovative Education and Smart Education, Humanistic Education, Educational Career and Business Development, Educational EXPO and Posters, Cultural and Social Activities.

There will also be an exhibition running simultaneously during the conference, which will provide an ideal platform to showcase the participants' new technologies and products in China.



Dr Duma Ka Ndlovu urges Univen Media Studies students to develop a hunger and thirst for success



Univen Department of Communications and Applied Language Studies staff photographed with Dr Duma Ka Ndlovu (Middle)



Dr Duma ka Ndlovu, the Television Producer and Director of Muvhango and Uzalo

Despite criticisms of job scarcity for students who are in the field of Media Studies, Dr Duma ka Ndlovu, the Producer and Director of Muvhango and Uzalo shed light to UNIVEN Media Studies students on opportunities that are available in the media industry more especially in the television industry. Dr Duma ka Ndlovu shed this light during his courtesy visit at the University of Venda (UNIVEN) Research Conference Centre on Monday 12 August 2019. The aim of his visit was to sensitise UNIVEN Media Studies students about the nature of the television industry and what they need to do to get into the industry.

"Our youth of today focused more on becoming actors and actresses because they want fame. In the television industry there are several career paths that media studies students can partake."

Dr Duma Ka Ndlovu spoke about career paths such as being a producer, script writer, interpreter/translator, Video Editor, Art Director, Content Strategist, Audio Visual Technician etc.

He expressed that in his company, he only hires those who have qualifications as he believes in bringing new faces and talent in the industry. "I encourage you to study hard until you graduate because now as we speak, I no longer hire anyone without a degree."

"Language representation is one of the most vital matter and this matter has triggered me to start a Tshivenda soap opera. Remember the three spoken languages in the Limpopo Province are minority languages and are not well represented on our small screens." He explained that the representation of languages is a deep and sensitive topic which also needs to be looked at with careful

African eyes. He continued to explain that South Africans need to use film and television to restore the dignity of those marginalized languages like Tshivenda and Tsonga without distorting or modernising our indigenous languages.

Dr Duma Ka Ndlovu urged Univen Media Studies students to develop hunger and thirst for success. "The industry needs individuals who are ambitious, selfmotivation and determined," he said.

"The industry needs individuals who are ambitious, selfmotivation and determined,"



UNIVEN Media Studies student Gilberto Nchabeleng

UNIVEN Media Studies student, Gilberto Nchabeleng said that the presentation of Dr Duma Ka Ndlovu was excellent and educational as it touched some critical hidden matters such as the attack on African culture through the media. It is truism that Euro-centre culture is a dominant one within the broad layers of the soap opera content sold to massive audience. "That was opulent and informative as well as suitable for young academics like us. We acknowledge and appreciate his visit to Univen," said Nchabeleng.



Dr Fulufhelo Makananise

In his vote of thanks message, Dr Fulufhelo Makananise has expressed his sincere gratitude to the television Producer and Director of Muvhango and Uzalo Dr Duma Ka Ndlovu for his enlightening and eye-opening lecture. "I believe that this will forge a long-lasting relationship and we hope to see you again even next year," Makananise said.

IKS students experience African history and creativity at UNIVEN Art Gallery



Univen 2nd level Indigenous knowledge System (IKS) students

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) 2nd level Indigenous knowledge System (IKS) students in the School of Human and Social Sciences, Department of African Studies have on Thursday, 22 August 2019 visited the University Art Gallery as part of their learning. The main purpose of the visit was to allow students to have an insight of the different types of artefacts from different cultures in the art gallery such as the different ornaments or tools that are indigenously used daily by African tribes such as, vhaVenda, Batsonga, and Bapedi.

One of the Lecturers in the Department of African Studies, Livhuwani Tshikukuvhe highlighted that the visit to the University Art Gallery was intended for Indigenous Knowledge System (IKS) students to learn about the history and creativity of Africans, how they expressed talents, feelings and beliefs as a tradition ; their cultural values shown during various ceremonies.

"The tour was very educational and eye-opening, as the information imparted to students enlightened them to see the need to protect their culture," Tshikukuvhe explained.

According to the tour guide, Muravha Malima the creativity of African people cannot be compared with any culture in the world because it is unique and differs from tribe to tribe. "The use of different colours and how each ornament has quality and carries a significant aim to its respective cultures. The Art Gallery allows indigenous knowledge of

ancient Africans to be preserved or protected as stated in the bill of rights on Act No.6 of 2019: Protection, promotion, development and Management of Indigenous Knowledge Act, 2019. Therefore, it gives a go ahead of passing knowledge from one generation to another as to learn different African cultures."

Students shared their experiences after exploring different indigenous preserved items in the Art Gallery. Charlotte Mabuza who is a UNIVEN IKS student said that they have learnt a lot about the origin

and existence of the vhaVenda culture and creation of drums with other musical instruments and other artefacts that were created in the vhaVenda culture as well as pictures of vhaVenda girls dancing after initiation schools such as Musevhetho, Vhusha and Domba. While Thomani Kwinda outlined that after visiting the Art Gallery, it was brought to their (students) attention that it is important for them as Africans to have places like the Art Gallery as it helps them keep and protect their culture.

"The tour was very educational and eye-opening, as the information imparted to students enlightened them to see the need to protect their culture,"



Jubilant UNIVEN IKS students photographed next to the Art Gallery

Prof Mugera Gitari yields research collaborations during his academic visit to the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research (JINR) in Dubna, Russia

Professor Mugera Gitari visited Joint Institute for Nuclear Research (JINR) on 20-26 July 2019 on invitation by Professor Alexander Nechaeff who is an expert in applied nuclear sciences and heads the sector: Center for Applied Physics

Laboratory. The visit was funded by NRF 'travel for researchers grants' support tool.



Professor Mugera Gitari with his host Dr Alexander Nechaeff at Flerov Laboratory Building

The JINR is an independent, multinational research agency located in Dubna, the Russian Federation that conducts both theoretical and practical research, mainly in the fields of elementary particle physics, nuclear physics and condensed matter physics. South Africa is an associate member of JINR. The main objectives for South Africa's membership to JINR is to provide the South African research community with access to world-class facilities, research and networking opportunities with the JINR scientific community. NRF awards travel grants to South African researchers travelling to JINR laboratories, funds are also available to researchers in South Africa to host JINR research experts for short periods of up to three weeks, in order to enrich local expertise in their field (<http://www.nrf.ac.za/joint-institute-nuclear-research-jinr>).

There are several thematic areas in which researchers can apply for this funding:

- Accelerator technology
- Focal Areas of the Heavy-Ion Physics Research Theme under the SA-JINR agreement
- Applied Nuclear Theme
- Theoretical Physics and Computing
- Education

Under these thematic areas of research, there are specialized Laboratories where experiments are executed (www.jinr.ru). Prof Mugera Gitari was able to establish collaborations with two laboratories at JINR through which students and staff at UNIVEN could exploit in future. These include:

Flerov Laboratory of Nuclear Reactions (FLNR)-Center for Applied Physics (CAP) Main research activities in this center include:

- Track etched membranes, nano and microporous material
- Interaction between heavy ions and matter-modification of physical properties of irradiated materials
- High purity isotopes and radioanalytical studies

Their laboratories are equipped with the state-of-the-art equipment such as Raman, HR-SEM, AFM, Zetasizer, contact angle, bubble point and magnetron sputtering.

This collaboration with Prof Alexander will involve development of polymer electrospun nano fibres functionalized with ligands or selective membranes for selective recovery of precious rare earth elements from industrial waste streams. This is a multi-country and multi-institutional project under the BRICS programme and will involve research teams from China, South Africa, Russia and India. This project will entail training of students from Environmental Remediation and Nano Sciences Research (EnViReN) group headed by Prof Gitari on fabrication of polymer electrospun nano fibre adsorbents and track etching in addition to training on use of state-of-the-art material characterization equipment at FLEROV laboratory.



Professor Marina V. Frontasyeva (left), Professor Leslie Petrik (center, UWC-South Africa), Professor Mugera Gitari (right) at Professors Marina's office in JINR, Dubna, Russia

Frank Laboratory of Neutron Physics (FLNP)- Neutron Activation Analysis and Applied Research:

This sector of Neutron Activation Analysis and Applied Research (NAAiPI) headed by Prof Marina V. Frontasyeva who was the host for this laboratory visit. This sector carries out analytical studies using the instrumental neutron activation analysis method, is a participant in international and Russian scientific programmes. Prof Marina V. Frontasyeva is an expert in the field of Instrumental Neutron Activation Analysis (INAA). She lectures on nuclear methods and her research interests include studying the environment and more specifically biomonitoring of heavy metals, trace elements deposition on select plants. She has over 300 publications.

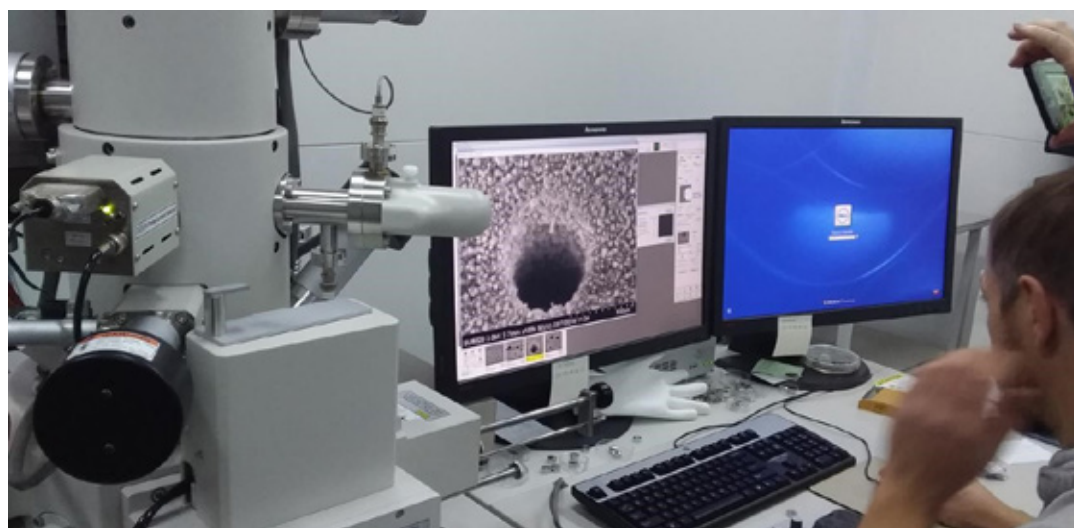
"Our collaboration with Prof Marina V. Frontasyeva will involve joint proposals and publications in application of Instrumental

Neutron Activation Analysis (INAA) in elemental analysis of mine tailings in South Africa. We will seek to identify the existence of rare earth elements (REE) and radionuclides in the mine tailings which could provide a route for their extraction and recovery," said Prof Gitari. He continued to highlight that, this will provide an opportunity for students from Environmental Remediation and Nano Sciences Research (EnViReN) group headed by himself (Prof Gitari) to travel to FLNP laboratory for training on application of INAA and subsequent data processing techniques.

Other laboratories and research sectors at JINR that could be of interest to researchers at UNIVEN include:

- Laboratory of Radiation Biology (LRB)
- Dzhelepov Laboratory for Nuclear Problems (DNLP)

For more detailed information check JINR website www.jinr.ru



HR-SEM showing the pore created by heavy ion beam to create an ion etched membrane at Flerov Laboratory

Researchers should remain relevant by addressing current challenges

"Come up with innovation that will reduce the global warming weather. When you do research, make sure that it will contribute to the improvement of the environment," said Dr Eric Musekene who delivered a 2019 Annual Climate Change Public Lecture. This public lecture took place on Friday, 02 August 2019 at Univen School of Environmental Sciences CADLAB. The theme of this public lecture was 'Climate Change does not respect border; it does not respect who you are -rich and poor, small or big'.

Dr Eric Musekene advised Environmental Sciences students to remain relevant and add value to the needs of the changing environment. "Make sure that your research addresses the global warming issue,"



Principal Specialist: Monitoring and Evaluation at Vodacom, Dr Musekene who is Univen graduate continued to tell students that everything they are doing while they are studying should complement the sustainable development goals. "If they don't support the sustainable development goal then know that what you are learning will not benefit the world."

"You are in a relevant school and we want you to contribute in this plan. Your curriculum is linked with the national development plan." He said South Africa is the best producers of coal. In terms of population, South Africa has grown significantly to 58, 8 million people. "This means there is a need to improve our environment. Unemployment has also increased and is still increasing." He advised students to think about starting businesses in the environmental field to employ others and improve the ever-changing climate. "Every year the earth is becoming warmer and warmer. We do not need excessive heat because it causes a lot of diseases such as skin cancer. Global warming affects your health, your resources and your environment, water, forest, money, cities, the air we breathing and agricultural products.

"There is no organisation that will fund your research to duplicate what they already have. There is money that South Africa is putting into funding for those whose research focus on challenges that the country is faced with."

Dr Musekene also spoke about the issue of the 4th Industrial Revolution. He said the fourth industrial revolution is technology that comes to us and make things easier for us which is a good thing. He spoke about 4th Industrial Revolution being the internet of things. "The internet makes things easier." He highlighted that there is 5G which will be rolled out soon. With the internet of things, things become very simpler each day. "When there is any shift or change that affects the country, the country must shift very quickly to the need at that time. The government should start retraining its people to remain relevant without retrenching. He concluded his lecture by mentioning that government should start changing the education curriculum to fit in the 4th Industrial Revolution era.



Mr Zwivhuya Netshivhambe, Mining and Environmental Geology student proposing a vote of thanks



Dr Eduard Stam introducing the guest speaker



Audience listening to the speaker during the introduction of the guest speaker



Public Lecture organisers, Miss Univen, Environmental Sciences staff members posing for a group photo with the guest speaker, Dr Eric Musekene

Mrs Nemushungwa has a deep passion for Economics



"I have always found economics fascinating as a social subject that deals with daily topical issues. Growing up, I was very inquisitive as to how the world works and how the different parts fit together. Economics has therefore helped me to better understand that," says Mrs Azwifaneli Nemushungwa, who is a lecturer at the Department of Economics at the University of Venda (UNIVEN).

"I have always strived to be a continuous learner with a deep passion for Economics, especially within the South African context

and its effects on the everyday life of ordinary South Africans. I therefore want to improve my understanding of this discipline by engaging more with other experts in the field and continue to do research to broaden my skill base." She continued to explain that, with the platform she has as an analyst, this will allow her to provide insightful commentary to a wide variety of audiences.

Mrs Nemushungwa started analyzing economic matters in 2016 on Univen FM with Simon Maluleke and Fhatuwani Lidzebe (who is now at Phalaphala FM) on a programme called 'Current Matters.' She said she was later called by Makhado FM to analyze economic issues on a programme called 'Maswa Maswa'. In 2017, Mrs Nemushungwa was on Kingdom FM community radio and Cosmo FM, which is in Randburg with DJ khathu.

In May 2018, she was offered an opportunity to make a 30 minutes presentation on SABC Phalaphala FM every Thursday, from 03 to 31 May on the theme 'Economy' with Wonder Juniper. "I was then interviewed on programmes like 'Masheleni na vhubindudzi' conducted by Murendeni Muhali and Mbavhalelo Nematondoni, SABC Education with Gill Tosh, 'Tshiko' with Mpho Rathando and on 'Ndevhetsini'. She later started analyzing economic matters on Vhembe

FM. "Currently, my clips are included on Capricorn FM news bulletin."

Mrs Nemushungwa is a former high school educator who was teaching a variety of subjects, primarily focusing on Economics. She is currently married with four children. She is also serving as a treasurer for the local Civic Organization in the area where she resides.

She advised those who wish to be analysts in future to understand what needs to be analyzed, that is, the problem to be addressed, the objectives and/or the questions to be addressed in the analysis. "Know your target audience and key facts that the audience need to know."

She highlighted that a good analyst should have critical thinking skills; have the ability to see both sides of the argument by making a balanced argument; continuously learn and try to acquire more knowledge of your discipline; try to acquire knowledge from other disciplines as disciplines are often interrelated and to have the ability to convey the message in a simple and understandable manner.

Her advice to women and everyone is "know that the world is your oyster. Anything that you may imagine is possible if you can put your mind and focus on it".

Univen accountancy members participate in transformation of the profession

The University of Venda has been actively participating in several accountancy's transformational projects by South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA). The transformational projects are aimed at redressing the imbalances of the past thereby promoting and making the chartered accountancy profession more accessible to rural and predominantly black communities. More specifically, the community projects include career outreaches, winter camps for matric learners and motivational speaking gatherings, all these taking place at identified locations and schools at different districts and regions in South Africa.



The team ready for presentation - L-R: Mr Ambani Tshikovhi, Ms Caroline Shavhani and Mr Freddy Munzhelele.



Ms Caroline Shavhani addressing the learners about CA 2025.

In this regard, Mr Freddy Munzhelele, Mr Ambani Tshikovhi CA (SA) and Ms Caroline Shavhani CA (SA), all senior lecturers in the Department of Accountancy were invited and attended the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and SAICA's matric learners camp at Bochum, Blouberg Municipality on 18 June 2019. In his capacity as Univen Thuthuka and ISFAP Project Manager, Mr Munzhelele presented on UNIVEN's academic offerings programmes in the Department of Accountancy and funding opportunities. Mr Tshikovhi and Ms Shavhani presented on the journey to become a CA (SA), being ethical as a CA(SA) and as an individual, BCom (Accounting Sciences) requirements at University of Venda and CA2025 expectations respectively.



L-R: Ms Caroline Shavhani, Ms Arinao Madzunya and Ms Shumani Nembudani

Ms Arinao Madzunya, Caroline Shavhani and Shumani Nembudani CA (SA) attended a SAICA organised Winter Learners' camps at Prestige College in Hammanskraal on 4 July 2019. In Pretoria, Ms. Madzunya, the first candidate to serve as the Academic Trainee Accountant in the UNIVEN's Department of Accountancy presented on the demand and commitment required of students pursuing a career in chartered accountancy, both Ms Shavhani and Ms Nembudani together presented on the CA2025 expectations and rewarding career of chartered accountancy. On the same day, they proceeded to Living Waters in Hammanskraal where they participated in a round-table dinner by sharing accountancy stories with grade 10 learners.

On Friday 26 July 2019, Mr Ambani Tshikovhi, Ms Caroline Shavhani, Ms Shumani Nembudani and Ms Thizwilondi Nekhubvi attended another SAICA's learners outreach and career awareness event at Khwevha Commercial High School at Shayandima. The event was well attended by school's SGB and parents as well. They presented on the journey to become a Chartered Accountant. Ms Thizwilondi Nekhubvi who is UNIVEN's Thuthuka Project Assistant, presented on departmental offerings and funding opportunities.

"Participating in these events has been very exciting and developmental for us in terms of taking the learning and information to the communities and rural, as well as the experience we are getting by engaging with different communities and stakeholders", says Mr Munzhelele.

"These events together with UNIVEN organised career exhibition are serving well as platforms to market our SAICA's recently accredited BCom (Accounting Sciences)", said Prof Oseifuah, HoD: Department of Accountancy.



"Participating in these events has been very exciting and developmental for us in terms of taking the learning and information to the communities and rural, as well as the experience we are getting by engaging with different communities and stakeholders"



Above: Parents and students of grade 9 and 8 learners at Khwevha Commercial high school listening attentively to the Senior lecturers of the University of Venda addressing and emphasising the importance of learners to study pure Mathematics when they start their grade 10.



L-R: Mr Ambani Tshikovhi, Ms Shumani Nembudani, Ms Thizwilondi Nekhubvi and Ms Caroline Shavhani all from the University of Venda within the Department of Accountancy

Univen apply before closing date campaign continues

At least 72 grade 12 learners from Tshinavhe Secondary school at Vyeboom near Vuwani were encouraged to prioritise their studies in order to progress academically. This was during the school visit by the University of Venda on Thursday, 05 August 2019. Univen Assistant Schools Liaison Officer, Justice Lebopa led students from various fields including Black Management Forum Univen branch representatives and Univen registered research student from Germany who motivated learners.

In her welcome remarks, the Principal of Tshinavhe Secondary School Ms Pfuluwani Moshapo mentioned that their school is privileged to be visited by an institution of higher learning. "We are so fortunate because some of learners who are in Gr 12 are not informed on how and when they can apply to study at the institution of higher learning. We believe that the visit by the University of Venda will also boost the performance of our learners," she said.



Above photo: University of Venda Assistant Schools Liaison Officer, Mr Justice Lebopa urging Tshinavhe learners to apply before closing date.



The Principal of Tshinavhe Secondary School Pfuluwani Moshapo

In 2018, Tshinavhe Secondary School matric produced dysfunctional results hence the principal blamed the Vuwani protest to have affected the performance of the learners. Mashapo urged her learners to participate, interact and ask necessary questions to the visitors.

The University of Venda Assistant School Liaison Officer Mr Justice Lebopa, on his presentation advised learners to make their choices wisely and to apply for admission at the University of Venda before the closing date.

Almost half of the Grade 12 learners in the school did not apply at any of the institution of higher learning including at the University of Venda, however Mr Lebopa outlined the processes which must be followed when a learner is applying.

Lebopa further went through the programmes offered by the university and told learners in the school to contact the University of Venda to be assisted with online application if they continue to face challenges.



Above Photo: Grade 12 learners listening to the speakers



Chairperson of Black Management Forum Univen branch, Ms Shandukani Mudau

"I know that many of you here come from a disadvantaged background but that shouldn't mean that you cannot be successful," these were words of motivation from the Chairperson of Black Management Forum Univen branch, Shandukani Mudau who is a former learner at Tshinavhe Secondary School and currently a registered student at Univen. "You must have goals that will pave ways to what you want to see yourselves in future. You have to prioritise your studies and manage your study time well, and that will be a key to your success. Be determined and note that anything is possible in this world," added Ms Mudau.



Wanga Muavha, a Gr 12 learner

Wanga Muavha, a Grade 12 learner said the visit by the University of Venda was fruitful. As learners we promise to work hard towards our studies and ensure we use this opportunity to work together with our teachers and fellow learners to produce good results at the end of the year," said Muavha.

"You must have goals that will pave ways to what you want to see yourselves in future. You have to prioritise your studies and manage your study time well, and that will be a key to your success. Be determined and note that anything is possible in this world."



Above photo: English educator Grace Sinthumule

The Grade 12 English educator Ms Grace Sinthumule expressed her sincere gratitude to the University of Venda for visiting their rural based school. She also encouraged learners to seek help from her office when they are applying so that they avoid disappointment at the beginning of the 2020 academic year. "As the school we are looking forward to see the University of Venda visiting our school every year to assist in sharing such valuable information to our learners," she concluded.

UNIVEN SRC gets equipped with leadership skills during the 10th University Scholars Leadership Symposium in Malaysia



L-R: Rinae Makhado (Minister of Finance, Bursaries and Projects), Leonard Munyai (Chairperson of PGC), Ronewa Mukwevho (Minister of Education), Salman Madina (Secretary General) and Ms Esther Mashavhanduna, (Head of Student Governance) photographed at Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.



SRC Secretary General, Mr Salman Madina

"As the University of Venda (UNIVEN) SRC, we have planned to bring some changes to the University community, focusing more on wide-ranging issues such as poverty, unemployment and crime," said UNIVEN SRC Secretary General after attending the 10th University Scholars Leadership Symposium (USLS) that took place at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia recently.

The delegation consisted of Salman Madina who is the SRC Secretary General, Rinae Makhado, Minister of Finance, Bursaries and Projects; Ronewa Mukwevho, Minister of Education; Leonard Munyai, Chairperson of PGC, and Ms Esther Mashavhanduna, Head of Student Governance. Participation in this Symposium would enable UNIVEN SRC to focus on building the contemporary leadership skills that would ensure that they stand out and have a humanitarian heart and spirit to challenge social issues.

This intensive 10th University Scholars Leadership Symposium was a social change programme that focused on the perfection of one's leadership abilities. The Symposium is considered critical in leadership development and life-skills training.

"When trying to make positive impact in the world as the youth, you feel small and insignificant in trying to achieve your aims. You feel like a drop of water in a very vast ocean - what difference could one possibly make?" Madina voiced out.

Mr Madina added that the programme ensured that as student leaders, they should realize that they are not alone in this endeavor to make the world a better place. Madina further outlined that the conference has enabled them (UNIVEN student leadership) to discover how to reach their maximum potential through wellpackaged leadership lectures by renowned life coaches, humanitarian workers, group sessions and activities in the local community.

The Humanitarian Affairs provide an international, multicultural platform where young leaders are equipped with firsthand practical leadership experience that can propel them to see the world from a completely new perspective and trigger the humanitarian spirit within them. This was indeed a unique experience, added Madina.

Since the inception of the 1st University Scholars Leadership Symposium in 2010, Humanitarian Affairs has partnered with more than 500 of the World's leading universities, many are listed by The Times Higher Education World University Rankings or QS World University Rankings. Some of the Academic Partners include Harvard, Princeton, Yale, University of Cambridge, Oxford University, King's College, London, University of Toronto, University of Melbourne, University of Tokyo, Seoul National University, Yonsei University, University of Hong Kong, National Taiwan University, National University of Singapore and Beijing University, among others.

"When trying to make positive impact in the world as the youth, you feel small and insignificant in trying to achieve your aims. You feel like a drop of water in a very vast ocean - what difference could one possibly make?"

UNIVEN student mentors engage in the 4th Industrial Revolution concept with the nearby High School Learners

AIME-UNIVEN under the Directorate of Community Engagement hosted the 1st Programme Day on Saturday, 03 August 2019 at the University's Research Conference Centre. Forty-nine (49) High school learners from the nearby Tshivhidzo Masiagwala Secondary School in the Maungani Community were engaged for mentoring sessions by 25 AIME-UNIVEN mentors. The programme day activities were aimed at equipping the learners with the power of imagination and sparked the creative mindset, goal setting. The session also explored the concept of the 4th Industrial Revolution, deriving from and inspired by Professor Tshilidzi Marwala's Public Lecture on the 4th Industrial Revolution.

The day started with ice-breaking activities led by Nkhangweleni Justice Mukwevho (AIME Hype Manager) bringing down the mentors and the mentees on the same page.



Nkhangweleni Justice Mukwevho instilling the hype atmosphere

"We are where we are for a particular reason. Embrace the small things you do because from small things big things grow. Embrace who you are and don't be ashamed of who you are."

After the 4th Industrial Revolution session, learners and mentors engaged in a discussion with mentors helping the mentees understand the questions around the 4th Industrial Revolution. Mentors took this opportunity to engage with the learners, sharing their experiences about their High school time. At the same time, mentees had the opportunity to ask more about University life and to ask questions they wished to have had answered.



Prof Netshandama addressing the audience

"Do not worry, work on it and never give up. You can be anything in life." She also advised learners to deal with negativity in a positive way. "Do not sit with problems that stand as barriers in your learning." She told them to Speak out, and somebody will hear, somebody will notice their existence.

In addition, Prof Netshandama reflected on the Public Lecture on the 4th Industrial Revolution by Prof Tshilidzi Marwala, introducing the concept to High School learners. The session was interactive as she explored two forms of human intelligence, that is, emotional intelligence quotient (EIQ) and intelligent quotient (IQ). She said this is not only IQ that's important but an individual's Emotional Intelligence (EI) as well. She explained that the learners loved the session and participated very well.



Mr Simbarashe Karambwe addressing the participants

The objective of the gathering and the motive for AIME were explained by Mr Simbarashe Karambwe (AIME Hooded Scholar). "AIME is run by young people and there is no shame at AIME. There is fun, I am grateful for the turn-up and I promise you that you will have a great day to remember." In addition, Mr

Karambwe shared his story setting the stage for mentees to embrace their stories. His story embraced the concept of purpose in life. "We are where we are for a particular reason. Embrace the small things you do because from small things big things grow. Embrace who you are and don't be ashamed of who you are."

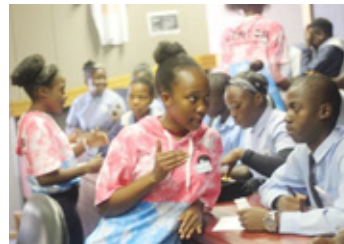
When officially welcoming participants, the Director of Community Engagement, Prof Vhonani Netshandama explained the importance of universities collaborating with high schools. She encouraged learners to have good listening skills, pay attention and commit to schoolwork. Prof Netshandama continued to instil hope to learners performing below par.



Cross-section of the venue



Learners enjoying the proceedings



Mentors engaging with mentees during a mentoring session



Mutshidzi Ramovha (mentor) distributing the snacks



Muimeleli Muravha (mentor) explaining the UNIVEN 2019/20 prospectus

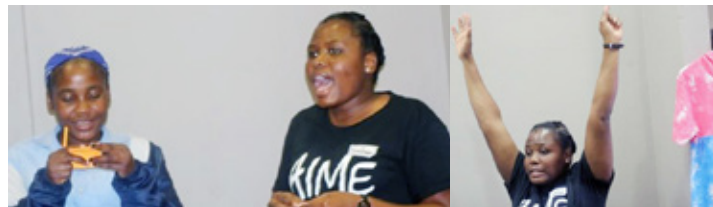
UNIVEN student mentors engage in the 4th Industrial Revolution concept continued...

Tshifharo Makhale (AIME Hooded Scholar) led the activity with a hype. The activity was a 365-day vision, challenging the mentees to set realistic goals which they can embrace and look forward to achieving after 365 days. Most of the mentees expressed a desire to pass their current grade with flying colours ahead of their transition into the next grade. It was a well taken exercise as each mentee had the opportunity to say out loud his/her goal in front of the audience.



Thendo embracing her 365-day goal

The Game of Life (GOL) which unlocks and sparks imagination among the mentees and mentors allows teamwork among group members. During this game, the players develop a story from a short video presented before playing. The Game of Life video was exactly in line with the concern raised by the school, that is, alcoholism. Mentees reflected upon it and acknowledged the consequences of peer pressure.



Tshifharo Makhale leading the 365-day vision exercise



Phathu embracing his 365 goal



Tshidzani embracing his 365-day goal



Charlotte Thlako (mentor) sharing her story

AIME believe in the power of stories in changing the mindset of individuals and encourages people to honour and embrace their stories and not be ashamed of who they are. This activity which was led by Charlotte Thlako who set the stage with her inspiring story of fighting for what she believes in and always do something she loves and not give up, saw an influx of mentees taking the stage and shared their emotional stories. In summary, 6 out of 8 mentees who shared their stories lamented about their behaviour such as alcoholism, smoking and not reading books. About 50% of these mentees expressed that they should have been at the University doing 2nd year by now. Generally, they cherished the idea of AIME being there to motivate them. As such, they have promised to work hard and pass their grades.



Fhulu embracing her 365-day goal



Mentors and mentees playing the game of life



Mentee reflecting on the Game of Life



Wanga embracing his 365-day goal



Mpho embracing her 365 goal and saying it loud



Mentees showcasing their dance talents

"It was quite exhilarating experience seeing mentees on top of the world dancing to their true potential," said Prof Netshandama. At AIME there is fun, a different atmosphere outside the classroom. It was a memorable day for every mentee.

Some of the mentees reflected that, before coming to the University, they expected a boring day, but they felt happy and have learned a lot from participating in this programme.

Learners thanked AIME-UNIVEN for giving them an opportunity to be part of the engagement programme. Learners further thanked mentors for their relentless efforts to serve as mentors whilst they also have loads of schoolwork to do. They also thanked UNIVEN Executive Management through the department of Safety and Security for allowing the high School learners to access the campus.



Ronaldo sharing his story



'UNIVEN must unite to fight against women abuse' - Mercy Raphaelalani

About 450 University of Venda (UNIVEN) students assembled at the University's sports hall on Saturday night to attend the Live chatroom gala dinner and UNIVEN Got Talent. It is an event which was organised by the Stopthespot Youth Organization, lafrica and UNIVEN Office of the SRC President as a way of celebrating women's month under the theme 'Break the Silence'.

The main objectives of the event were to give women the voice and encouragement through talent showcasing, so that they could know that they have ability to do anything by themselves, to let other victims to know that they are not alone. There are many support structures that are waiting to help them in UNIVEN and also to encourage every student to stand together and fight abuse despite their political differences.

One of the organisers and founder of Stopthespot Youth Organisation, Mercy Raphaelalani mentioned that the organisation has organised the gala dinner to encourage women to speak out about any form of abuse, to ensure that abusers understand the pain that victims of abuse went through when they are abused. "Men should respect their girlfriends the same way they respect their mothers, sisters and daughters. There is no excuse for abuse, the way we dress as women shouldn't mean we deserve to be raped. We should dress in any way that we like and fear nothing as we walk on the streets," said Raphaelalani.

She also encourages UNIVEN community to unite and fight against women abuse at the University under a theme of #ZeroToleranceofabuse. Raphaelalani Further shed light on the importance of speaking out as a victim of abuse that if they (Victims) don't break their Silence, they won't be assisted. "No matter what you have been through or what you are going through, if you get professional help first, your life will be better again".



Founder of Stopthespot Youth Organisation, Mercy Raphaelalani



UNIVEN SRC president, Tsundzuka Hakamela

UNIVEN SRC President, Tsundzuka Hakamela in his address expressed that women ought to be protected and respected all the times. "We shouldn't do it just because it is a women's month. For all of us to be here is because of our mother's endurance to all life obstacles," said Hakamela. UNIVEN female students were reinvigorated to report all the cases of the abuse no matter what. "It doesn't matter whether you were / are abused by an SRC member or lecturer, they should all be reported and brought to justice."



UNIVEN SRC Deputy President, Portia Masekela

UNIVEN SRC Deputy President, Portia Masekela alluded that it is not easy to work with male colleagues in a leadership role, supporting her point that male colleagues assume that women cannot do better than their male counterparts. "As women, we are unique and if we stand together, we can achieve many things that men think we cannot achieve without them," Masekela said.

"Men should respect their girlfriends the same way they respect their mothers, sisters and daughters."



UNIVEN students attending Live Chatroom gala dinner

If you spot anything out of the ordinary on campus - contact the tip-off hotline - 0800 212 755 / email: univenhotline@tip-offs.com

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Dr Takalani Dzaga – Chief editor
Ms Welheminah Mabogo – Coordinator
Mr Peter Mashishi – Contributor
Ntsieni Sirwali – Intern
Ms Mushoni Mulaudzi – Preservation (Library)

Send your contributions to:

Welheminah Mabogo, Nendila Coordinator
University of Venda, Private Bag x5050
Thohoyandou, 0950

Contact Details:

Tel: 015 962 8525
Fax: 015 962 8494
e-mail: welheminah.mabogo@univen.ac.za
Physical: Office number 24,
First Floor
Main Administration Building
University of Venda