



The University of Venda Celebrates Council's Legacy

The University of Venda held a farewell function for outgoing Council at The Ranch Hotel, Polokwane, on Friday, 22 November 2019.

At the function, Mr Serobi Maja, the outgoing Chairperson of the UNIVEN Council expressed his profound gratitude to each and every member of Council for the role they played individually and collectively "to make our Council one of the best if not the best." He also gave highlights of the outgoing Council's achievements over the past five years (2014-2019). An example of the highlights that Mr Maja spoke about is infrastructural development where he also thanked the Ministry of Higher Education and Training for financial support.



Furthermore, Mr Maja said there is no doubt in his mind that as a Council of the University of Venda, they achieved a lot of objectives that they had set for themselves. He indicated that as the highest governing body of the institution, they strained every nerve to ensure that both academic staff and students worked well together and that teaching and learning took place without unnecessary interruptions.

He particularly thanked the academic staff for ensuring that over the past five years, the number of high-quality graduates increased tremendously." He thanked the Council for the positive role they played without

exception to appoint the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of UNIVEN, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni. Mr Maja indicated that even though the Vice-Chancellor of the University comes from the same area where the institution is built, UNIVEN still remains one of the 26 South African Institutions of Higher Learning and it must continue to be treated as such. "It does not belong to a certain ethnic group or tribe but to all South Africans." Mr Maja concluded his address by applauding the Chancellor, Honourable Kgalema Motlanthe for the role he played during his term as the Chancellor of the University of Venda. He said Honourable Motlanthe never failed to preside over graduation ceremonies which was one of his duties as Chancellor of UNIVEN. Mr Maja advised that the University should look for a Chancellor who will always be available to fulfill his or her duties.

He wished the Vice-Chancellor and Principal together with the management team all the very best future. He also prayed that the new Council will be inaugurated in the near future and they will continue from where they ended and make UNIVEN the pride of the country.



Representing the Chairpersons of Council Committees, the Chairperson of Audit Committee, Mr Joe Seoloane, elaborated that they were entrusted with responsibilities of being sub committees.

He mentioned that it had been an interesting journey. Mr Seoloane further said that the incoming Council should at all times make sure that governance and ethics do not fail under their watch. In addition, they should be in position to detect failures in governance very quickly because this will assist them to fix shortcomings at an early stage." Mr Seoloane also pointed out that UNIVEN is not too big to fail in governance, it just needed a dedicated team. He wished Dr Nthambeleni well as the Vice-Chancellor of the University and said "We hand the powers to you and please take good care of this institution because we will be watching the operations of the University as retirees and should you need any assistance, do not hesitate to seek advice from us."



The Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni in his farewell address, said that according to section 27 of the Higher Education Act, the role of Council of a public higher education institution is to govern and exercise general oversight role over the institution and its affairs. "The University of Venda Council took its governance responsibilities very seriously and through its sub committees, the Council scrutinised, challenged and held UNIVEN management to account."

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Dr Nthambeleni highlighted some of the achievements of the outgoing council and told the Council members that their appraisals and critique to assist with the enhancement of the University were deeply valued by management. "You have made a very valuable impact and each member brought special expertise in your field. This has assisted the University to improve its stature. This past (5) five years were rich with fulfilling work that was well executed by Council. Our meetings of Council were often characterized by robust debates and divergent views. However, every member understood that we share the common vision of advancing the interest of the institution."

He said under this Council's leadership, UNIVEN has been transformed to compete as one of the best universities of choice in the country. Dr Nthambeleni further said that UNIVEN continued to be on an upward trajectory in terms of its research output, academic programmes and infrastructural development.

Some of the highlights that he spoke about include but not limited to the recent 2017 journal publication output units by index which has also improved compared to 2016 journal publication output; 2017 weighted research per capita output that has improved, and UNIVEN is in the top 15 of the university rankings in South Africa; completion rate for the cohort of students who began their studies in 2013 is outstanding; from the recent data published by DHET, UNIVEN is in the top-ten of the South African university's rankings in the country and the number of our NRF rated researchers has increased from two in 2009 to 38 in 2019.



The Acting University Registrar, Advocate Edward Lambani said Council members leave UNIVEN with a fragrant memory that everyone shall be proud of. He said they were entrusted with the interest of the institution with full confidence, a confidence which was never betrayed. "We believe that they had the welfare of the University of Venda at heart and trust that they will live long and represent the University wherever they go." On behalf of Management, Advocate Lambani thanked Council members for being loyal, useful and for devoted services they have rendered in the past five years.



The DVC Operations, Dr Robert Martin wished Council members well in all spheres of life. He said it is because of their contributions and leadership that the University can now talk about rejuvenation even though UNIVEN still has a long way to go. "This University will impact a lot of generations to come because of your contributions in building it," he told the audience.



The DVC Academic, Prof Jan Crafford said as part of Senior Management of this institution, they did not always have an easy relationship with Council, but they had healthy differences. "We have had a wonderful five years with this Council, and we have learned a lot from everyone, especially from Chairs of Council Committees.

This past (5) five years were rich with fulfilling work that was well executed by Council. Our meetings of Council were often characterized by robust debates and divergent views.



Outgoing Council members posing for a group photo at The Ranch Hotel

Dr Nthambeleni wishes UNIVEN staff members a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year

The University of Venda held the Vice-Chancellor's year-end function on Friday, 29 November 2019. The event took place in the University Auditorium. "The transition from 2018 to 2019 for the most part has been smooth. We have achieved most of the goals we had set for ourselves. However, some challenges remain and our commitment to meeting these challenges remain resolute. Despite the many challenges facing our higher education sector, our University has been stable, and we will continue to maintain and safeguard our teaching and learning spaces." Said the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni during the Year End function. During this event, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal also honoured 82 staff members in recognition of their dedication, loyalty and service to the University. Seventeen (17) of them were retirees, with eleven (11) men and six (06) women. Some of the staff members received long service awards and the categories of the awards were 10, 20 and 30 years of service.



Dr Nthambeleni mentioned that UNIVEN continues to contribute enormously to the socio-economic development not only of the Province but the entire country by producing graduates that occupy significant positions in both public and private sector. He said UNIVEN celebrated the accreditation of Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting Sciences programme and being the last Historically Disadvantaged Institution (HDI) to receive such accreditation.

"Following a system wide review of all LLB Programmes in South Africa by the Council on Higher Education, our LLB programme received a full reaccreditation without conditions. UNIVEN was one of the few universities which received unconditional approval of this programme."

Dr Nthambeleni highlighted that, for our May and September graduation ceremonies this year, the University conferred three thousand seven hundred and sixteen (3 716) qualifications. Most importantly UNIVEN's doctoral graduations have increased from 6 (six) in 2007 to 64 (sixty-four) in 2019. "This is a remarkable achievement. Our doctoral degree output for 2019 academic year is the highest number of doctoral degrees ever produced by this University. We are very pleased about this achievement and want to thank our academic, administrative and service staff for their hard work."

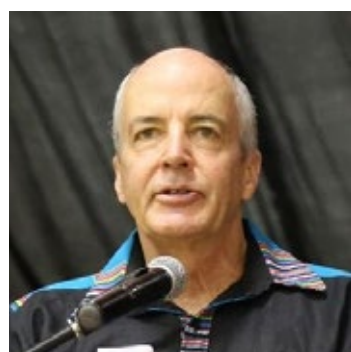
He said UNIVEN continues to be on an upward trajectory regarding its research output. "Our recent 2017 journal publication output units by index has also improved compared to our 2016 journal publication output.

We are hopeful that likewise, our 2019 research output will also be gratifying. The number of our National Research Foundation Rated Researchers continues to grow. It is important that we increase the number of rated researchers for our University, not only as a tool for benchmarking the quality of our researchers against the best in the world, but also to advance our research agenda. Our University staff with doctoral qualifications has increased to 41% which is above the national average of 37% in the entire higher education sector. We look forward to maximising this numerical advantage by producing more research articles in high impact journals and providing more supervisory capacity for our students." He also applauded Dr Edwin Madala's NRF award which he received this year, 2019.

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal also took the opportunity to inform staff members that the University is in process of reviewing the current strategic plan in order to position the University to make more impact, influence and be efficient and effective as an institution of higher learning.

He concluded his talk by mentioning that UNIVEN hosted two public lectures addressed by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Johannesburg, Prof Tshilidzi Marwala focusing on the 4th Industrial Revolution and the lecture by UNIVEN's former SRC President, Minister Ronald Lamola focusing on the South African Justice System.

"Moving forward we will be able to position our resources where they are needed. The gender-based violence and the issue of the abuse of female students will also be dealt with among other things that we want to give more attention to next year." Dr Nthambeleni thanked the retirees for serving the University with pride since the year they joined the University. "You have played a very big role in making sure that today as we speak of the achievements, it is because of your contributions." He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic, Prof Jan Crafford said this was that time of the year that the University reflects on the highlights of the year. He said 2019 was an interesting year for UNIVEN because it is the first full year of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni in the office. "A lot has happened during this year. We believe we will also have another successful year in 2020 as we bid farewell to some of our colleagues when they go on retirement."



Mrs Uanda Ndou, Director of Human Resources said "it is an honour and privilege to be the one to acknowledge the senior citizens who have been taking care of our institution for the last ± 30 years". Mrs Uanda Ndou informed staff members that the person who has the shortest service record among the retirees has served UNIVEN since 1999 and the longest since 1982. She further said that these are the most adaptable and flexible people in the workplace for they have served the University during the time of the then Republic of Venda President Mphaphu Ramabulana, President Ravele and they witnessed the coup led by Brigadier

Ramushwana in 1990. They also partook in the transition to the new South Africa. Some of these retirees had an opportunity to work with all the University's Vice-Chancellors including our current Vice-Chancellor, Dr Nthambeleni. She advised the retirees to stay active and maintain their lifestyle.



Mr Melton Neluonde spoke on behalf of service staff. He mentioned that he started working at this University in 1982 and has seen a massive transformation and growth of this University. Mr Neluonde told other staff members that this is one of the beautiful universities in this country and advised staff members to take care of UNIVEN.



Mr Ailwei Shavhani representing Admin staff members said he started working for UNIVEN in 1986. "Our contributions have made the University to be what it is today. I am proud to say that our contributions took the University to be where it is today, and it is not about being known and recognized but doing what you are employed for.

This University has made us who we are today." He advised staff members to take care of the UNIVEN and its properties because this is the future of the coming generations.



Dr Ellewani Ramaite-Mafadza who represented academic staff members said she started working for UNIVEN as a part time Lecturer in 1986 and became a permanent staff member in 1995. She said she has been attached to UNIVEN for 33 years. She told the audience that throughout the years she spent working for UNIVEN, the University has been represented at the Grahamstown National Arts Festival every year." It is important to note that UNIVEN does not have the performing arts in its curriculum. These students who form these groups participated in these performances outside their academic responsibilities." Dr Ramaite Mafadza said some of the moments she is proud of is that she was organizing women and their activities. "With few female staff members, we gave ourselves responsibilities to organize these activities. When a serial killer was arrested, we organized a march in order to influence the court not to grant him a bail and ensured that he get a harsher sentence." She said she leaves UNIVEN with a clear conscience because she has made a difference in this institution and served to the best of her ability. She thanked the University for affording her an opportunity to work for it and wished all staff members well in serving the University.



In his vote of thanks message, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Operations, Dr Robert Martin thanked all staff members for serving UNIVEN with pride and for making sure that the University achieves its intended goals. Dr Martin further thanked all retirees and told them that the University values their contributions and sacrifices. "When we look around the University, we see the results of your service." He wished staff members a good festive season and said he pray and believe that everyone will come back safe and with fully recharged energy next year.

Dr Nthambeleni wishes UNIVEN staff members a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year continued...



Senior management posing with staff members who served the University for ten years



Senior management posing with staff members who served UNIVEN for twenty years



Senior management posing for a photo with staff members who served the University for 30 years



Senior management posing with retired staff members

UNIVEN Vice Chancellor-led Delegation Delivers Donations to Tropical Cyclone Idai Victims in Chimanimani District of Zimbabwe

Cyclone Idai, which triggered massive land falls in Mozambique from 14 March 2019 hit Chimanimani District in eastern Zimbabwe the day after. The United Nations described it as "one of the worst weather-related catastrophes in the history of Africa." About 1 300 people in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe were killed, with a further half of this number still unaccounted for. In Zimbabwe, the cyclone caused damage estimated to be \$622 million. Sources of livelihoods for more than 50 000 households were destroyed, directly affecting 270 000 people. It is reported that 60 000 people were displaced. At least \$1.1 billion is needed to support the country's recovery, which includes reconstruction of damaged infrastructure and restoration of lost sources of livelihoods. This humanitarian crisis prompted the Institute for Rural Development, to roll out on behalf of the University of Venda, a campaign that mobilized donations from individuals, organizations and institutions.



Loading donated goods into a truck prior to transportation to Chimanimani District, Zimbabwe

The items that were donated included food, kitchen utensils, sanitary pads, disposal nappies, bath soaps, washing powder soaps, tooth brushes, body lotions, counter books, writing pens, pencils, a tent, 281 bags of assorted clothes and 91 x five litres of bottled water. The value of all items donated is estimated to be more than sixty-five thousand Rands (R65 000). Many individuals, organisations and institutions partnered with UNIVEN in the campaign that mobilized the donations towards the Tropical Cyclone Idai humanitarian support for Chimanimani District. Among these were MalaFM, African Institute for Community Development in Chimanimani District, United Apostolic Faith Church, Vhumbanani for Peacebuilding, Agape Christian Church, EPP Mhinga High School, Amplifying Community Voices Students Association, Current and former students of the Institute for Rural Development, Murongwe Enrichment Projects, YWCA Botlokwa Branch and Thembaletu Development.

The United Nations described it as "one of the worst weather-related catastrophes in the history of Africa."



Staff members loading bottles of water into University bakkies before the long journey to Chimanimani District

From 26-28 November 2019, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni (the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of UNIVEN) led a 16-member delegation, comprising staff and students, visited Chimanimani District to deliver goods that the university and its partners mobilized.

Day 1 of the visit (27 November) began with an official handover of goods ceremony. Mr Lloyd Kasima (the Assistant District Administrator) addressed the UNIVEN delegation and local representative groups. He revealed that Tropical Cyclone Idai destroyed more than 400 houses. In addition to this, at least 300 people were still missing and presumed to have been killed. He said, "We don't even know where they are. Very few people were found and were officially buried." Narrating the ordeal of that fateful night, Mr Kasima revealed that he still remembered vividly the events of that night. Communication with people from other areas was impossible, which meant that the locals could not ask for assistance mainly because electricity was cut and there was no cellphone network coverage. Continuing with his briefing of the attendees at the official handover ceremony, he said "We had a very bad experience and that night was so disastrous that I will never forget what happened." Mr Kasima noted that the government had restored some basic services, even though there is still a lot to be done.

Appreciating external support that continues to flow into the District, he said, "Through the assistance of the government and other organizations that are donating, we are slowly but surely recovering. We thank well-wishers such as the University of Venda for seeing the need to rescue us".



Mr Lloyd Kasima, Chimanimani Assistant District Administrator, emphasizing a point during the briefing session for the UNIVEN delegation



Dr N.B. Nthambeleni (left) and some members of his UNIVEN delegation listening attentively during the briefing session on Tropical Cyclone Idai



Mr Kasima and his team comprising government and the local Civil Protection Unit briefing the UNIVEN delegation on the state of affairs in Chimanimani District after Tropical Cyclone Idai Destruction

In response to Mr Kasima's briefing, the UNIVEN Vice-Chancellor and Principal delivered a speech through which he mainly consoled those affected and local population in general. He indicated that the spirit of Ubuntu and "our Africanness" informed the university gesture. "As the University of Venda, we saw a need to go all out to ask for help from churches and many other stakeholders that we believed could assist. We couldn't fold our hands as fellow Africans and wait for people from other continents to assist yet we are just here as your neighbours", Dr Nthambeleni explained.

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal went on to indicate that a number of staff members and students from Zimbabwe and Chimanimani District in particular, were part of the UNIVEN family. Also, there were others who graduated from the University and were now engaged in development activities within Chimanimani and Chipinge Districts. Thus, UNIVEN couldn't look away after that catastrophe. "We had to come up with a plan to assist the affected where possible. Furthermore, we are aware that there are other areas that were affected, including some parts of Mozambique, and Malawi. We identified this area because it is much closer to our University in geographical terms." The Vice-Chancellor highlighted the need to continue demonstrating the spirit of Ubuntu through evidence of the fact that we care about you and all those who were affected. "....These are the times when we need to unite as Africans. We need to assist each other as brothers and sisters", he re-emphasized.

After the official ceremony, members of the Civil Protection Unit and African Institute for Community Development in Chimanimani District accompanied the UNIVEN delegation to the camps where the most affected people are sheltered. At each camp, Dr Nthambeleni presided over the official hand over of donated items.



Mr Enock Mhlanga (above), a representative of Gatakata village which received some donations, thanked the University of Venda for the gesture of goodwill and solidarity. He appealed for more support because a lot of humanitarian support is still needed.

On the second day of the visit (28 November), the delegation visited Chimanimani Aboratum, Nyamatanda and Kopa Camps, which are sheltering 58, 30 and 75 households, respectively. Goods were delivered to the affected people staying in the camps.

UNIVEN Vice Chancellor-led Delegation Delivers Donations to Tropical Cyclone Idai Victims in Chimanimani District of Zimbabwe continued...



Some members of the UNIVEN delegation (staff and students) with some representatives of Chimanimani District



One of the camps holding Tropical Cyclone Idai-displaced households in Chimanimani District



Prior to Cyclone Idai, this area was part of the village where a police station, jam factory, government and NGO offices and more than 50 houses stood



A group of affected people at Kopa receiving some donated goods



This area used to be a residential area and this is how it looks after houses were swept away by water. Rocks took over



The Vice Chancellor and Principal distributing donations to the victims of Cyclone Idai

Expanding Research Collaborations and Networking with African Universities



Senior Professor GE Ekosse with the University of Lagos Director Research and Innovation - Professor Bola Oboh and her colleagues

The University of Venda's Director Research and Innovation, Senior Professor Georges Ekosse visited selected tertiary institutions in Nigeria and Ghana from the 10th-18th of November 2019. The institutions visited were University of Lagos (UNILAG) Lagos, Nigeria; Yaba College of Technology (Yaba Tech) Lagos, Nigeria; and Methodist University College Ghana (MUCG), Accra Ghana. The purpose of the working visit was to lay foundation where applicable; and develop and expand on research collaborations and networking of the institutions with University of Venda (UNIVEN).



Senior Professor GE Ekosse with Dr Popoola at Yaba College of Technology, Lagos

Staff members at UNILAG present for the meeting included Professor Bola Oboh – Director Research and Innovation, Dr Hakeem Amuda – Deputy Director Innovation, Dr Helen Adekanmbi – Deputy Director Research, Dr Patrick Okonji – Research Fellow, and Mr Femi Keshinro from the International Relations, Partnerships and Prospects Office.

Members of the two institutions exchanged ideas on the framework for actualising a mutually rewarding partnership. After extensive discussion, the meeting distilled the following as areas that could be explored for collaboration: staff exchange to build capacity, and building on strength of individual faculty to develop synergy. Suggestions were also advanced on active research collaboration; training of doctoral students together, and floating joint proposal to harness resources from African Billionaires.

It was agreed that the Research and Innovation Offices of the two universities should engage at the director level to synthesise the common areas of collaboration. These would then be built into a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The Office of International Relations, Prospects and Partnership at UNILAG will work with UNIVEN's Directorate of International Relations in finalizing the transaction.

Over the years, UNIVEN has received several former students of Yaba Tech registering for higher qualifications. Through the efforts of Dr OE Popoola, these students registered particularly in the Schools of Environmental Sciences, and Mathematical and Natural Sciences for MSc and PhD degrees at UNIVEN. Many have graduated, and one of them recently became a National Research Foundation (NRF) rated researcher. During the engagement at Yaba Tech, discussions were thus held on expansion of the collaboration to include staff exchanges, joint supervision and execution of student and staff research projects.

Members of the two institutions exchanged ideas on the framework for actualising a mutually rewarding partnership.



Senior Professor Ekosse at the Ekuru Kaolins in Ogun State, Nigeria

The Ghanaian leg of the working visit was to finalise discussions on the establishment of the MoU between UNIVEN and MUCG. The occasion was chaired by the President of the university, Professor Akwasi Asabere-Ameyaw and moderated by the Registrar, Mr Okyere Boateng. Institutional research collaborations and networking between UNIVEN and MUCG were initiated in 2016, and much progress was made in June 2019. The need to deconstruct the colonial mentality by taking advantage of the opportunities within the continent to advance research, innovation, and institutional development was emphasized. Equally reiterated was for African universities to partner with African millionaires and billionaires in advancing research, innovation and technology transfer, as well as postgraduate training. Some of the areas of collaboration include: Co-supervision; Adjunct professor exchanges; training of doctoral candidates from MUCG; Working visits; Research collaboration between Schools and Faculties of both institutions.



UNIVEN Director Research and Innovation, Senior Professor GE Ekosse with the President of MUCG, Professor Akwasi Asabere-Ameyaw



UNIVEN Director Research and Innovation, Senior Professor GE Ekosse (left) with the President of MUCG, Professor Akwasi Asabere-Ameyaw (second from left) and his senior management staff

Buddy Programme Closing Function 2019

Buddy program was adopted by the Directorate of International Relations as a driver for social cohesion with an attempt to try and bring international students to collaborate and work with local students coming up with innovative research-based activities/creative ideas that can be transformed to purposefully empower and serve the communities. The programme is meant for cultural exchange and it is set for students to interact and learn from each other to dissolve language barriers and seek an understanding around the stereotypes that exist among diverse cultural groups. The programme is launched every year for social integration of foreign and national students. The programme goes hand in hand with the academic performance of participating students. Each year the programme holds two events, the opening and the closing functions. Both events are made up of local and international students as well as university staff from the Directorate of International Relations. This year, the closing function was held at the Elias Resort in Ndzhalele on the 12 October 2019 and the theme was 'Deconstructing xenophobia and femicide in the context of rural-based universities.' Data was collected from students of different culture, background and language.

Dr Segun Obadire, Acting Director of International Relations, in his opening remark, appreciates all the participants. He expressed gratitude to stakeholders such as UNISU, SRC, leaders and members of the groups who collaborated well with the IRO to drive the project from the opening event to its closure. He reminded the stakeholders and the entire participants that, we need to recognise that as human beings and Africans, we are one, regardless of race, culture and where we come from.



Acting Director International Relations, Dr Segun Obadire during the closing function

Mr Joe Mundadi, Deputy President of UNISU gave an overview of what buddy program is, he explained the importance of Buddy Program in relation to friendships between people of different cultures who share and



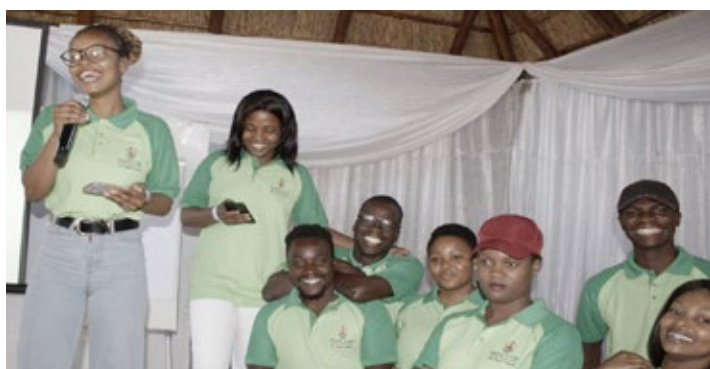
Mr Joe Mundadi, Deputy President of UNISU



Group picture of some of the participants at the closing function

During the event, all participating groups presented their tasks and achievements during the year. The presentation which was led by the group leaders gave an insight on the significance and effect of Buddy programme to the University and the surrounding communities. After the presentation, the group were given certificates of participation and the best performing group, Group Ncwii was awarded the trophy. Ms Zanele Mashishi, Group member of Forever United mentioned during her presentation mentioned that the group visited John Mutheiwana secondary school in Tshimbupfe village. The school was chosen with reason that it is based in a rural place and learners are not much privileged because of lack of resources at the school. Mr Ntlanhla Somhlahlhla, Sci- Spartans group mentioned that the group visited Lucas Ratshilingwa Secondary School on the 17 August 2019 tutoring grade 12 students Mathematics, Physical Sciences (Physics and Chemistry), Accounting, Computers skills. The group realized that there is much work to be done in other to salvage the situation of students at the school.

Mr Pfono Nefale from the group Ncwii gave few tasks that the group undertook throughout the year. The group visited Litshani Vhana Vhade, and NGO in Muledani, a village few kilometers outside Thohoyandou where they distributed sanitary pads, tooth pastes, teeth brushes and face cloth for the children. The Visit took place on 9 October 2019. The group also organized social market were students from the project called STEP (Student Training for Entrepreneurial Promotion) participants exhibited their businesses, cultural food and cultural attire. The event took place at Cafeteria Lapa on the 16 March 2019. The group also lend a hand in a project call Cyclone Idai by packaging different donated items for people in Zimbabwe. The last presentation was given by group Give Me Hope by Mr. Ronewa Kholophe. The group manage to request donation that will be distributed to disadvantage children and orphanages around Thohoyandou soon.



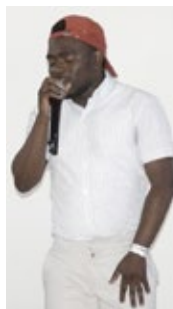
Ms Zanele Mashishi, Forever United Group



Mr Ntlanhla Somhlahlhla, Sci- Spartans Group



Mr Pfono Nefale, Group Ncwii Group



Mr Ronewa Kholophe, Give me Hope Group



Group Ncwii celebrating their victory as the best active team of the year

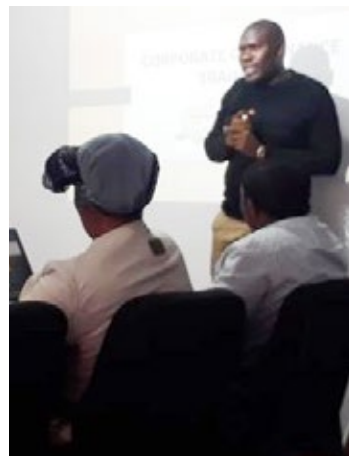
Community Engagement and Outreach Project Corporate Governance Training Workshop

The School of Law through the Department of Mercantile Law, under the leadership of Dr Tumo Maloka (HoD) successfully organised and facilitated a Corporate Governance Workshop at Nwanedi Pack House (Tshipise), for the Nwanedi local farmers. The workshop took place at Nwanedi Packhouse recently.

The workshop was organised as part of the School's community engagement initiative. The Steering Committee comprising of Adv Norman Raphulu, Mr Thabo Lebelo, Adv Ntsuxeko Shibambu, Dr Chiedza Simbo and Adv Hlako Choma were the driving force behind the success of the workshop. Five law students were involved leading up to and during the workshop. Amongst the students were members of the incoming 2019/2020 School of Law Student Representative Council (LRC), under the leadership of Mr Oda Ramusekene.

The workshop was organised following an invitation to the School of Law by Timbali Technology Incubator, which is a non-profit company (NPC). Timbali, through government financial support, developed and operated a mentorship model programme for the Nwanedi small holding commercial farmers to create for them a sustainable commercial farming model that has direct market access.

In the process, Timbali successfully built a multimillion-rand Parkhouse for the benefit of the Nwanedi farming commercial farmers. The aim of the packhouse is to bridge a gap between the farmers and the market through reputable and reliable operational mechanisms.



Adv. Shibambu from the Mercantile Law Department facilitating the question and answer session



Adv. Raphulu from the Jurisprudence Department facilitating one of the corporate governance training sessions



Mr Lebelo from the Mercantile Law Department facilitating one of the corporate governance training session

The need for the workshop was owing to that Timbali, who are currently administering the Nwanedi Packhouse on behalf of the local farmers, are due to hand over the Packhouse early 2020 to the Nwanedi local farmers. The Packhouse will be transferred to the soon to be formed NPC, which will take over from Timbali and administer the Packhouse for the benefit of the local farmers. This is where UNIVEN, School of Law came in to assist to train the soon to be formed NPC prospective board members on issues of corporate governance. Both Timbali and the School of Law felt the need to educate the local farmers on corporate governance to ensure the smooth running of and sustainability of the NPC.

In the process leading to the workshop, Adv. Tshildzi Norman Raphulu and Mr Thabo Lebelo, both lecturers in the School of Law, developed a tailor-made training manual on corporate governance of NPCs. The workshop was attended by local farmers (representing their different cooperatives); Timbali representative, Mr Sydney Chauke; and the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (Musina) representative, Mr MA Budeli. The workshop was facilitated by colleagues and the students in the School of Law.

There was a general consensus amongst the participants that there was still a need for the School of Law to come back and give other workshop sessions. A two-day workshop has been proposed and is set to take place early January 2020.



LLB students and lecturers from the School of law posing for a photo after a successful corporate governance workshop at Nwanedi Packhouse



LLB students who participated in the workshop



Nwanedi local farmers who participated in the corporate governance training)



Participants posing for a photo after the corporate governance training/workshop

Department of Physics hosts the 2019 International Astronomical Union workshop

The University of Venda's Department of Physics is currently hosting the 2019

International Astronomical Union (IAU) Workshop. This workshop is underway from 18 – 22 November 2019 and is taking place at the University's Research Conference Centre. The workshop is attended by trainers, academics and students who have an interest in astronomy and those who wish to introduce this project in their teaching of introduction to astronomy at their universities or institutions.

The IAU is a non-profit organization. Its members are professional astronomers from all over the world, at the PhD level and beyond who are active in professional research, education and outreach in astronomy. It has 13136 members in 107 countries.



Dr Takalani Nemaungani from the Department of Science and Innovation commended the good work of organizing a workshop of this caliber because it is rare to find this kind of workshops in Limpopo Province. "We want to partner with the University more often in making sure that we improve our country's economy and the knowledge of Astronomy in the country. We have partnered with several national and international organizations in making sure that this workshop becomes a success." He said the Department is investing a lot of money in astronomy every year. He encouraged visitors and the audience to participate by bringing their ideas to the table to be discussed where clarity is needed.



The Dean of the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences, Prof Natasha Potgieter said South Africa has a long history of excellence in Astronomy, a sound high-tech infrastructure and clear skies. She highlighted that South Africa hosts the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT), which is a 10m optical telescope and the largest of its kind in the Southern hemisphere at the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) Sutherland site. "South Africa also hosts the world's large radio telescope, Square Kilometre Array (SKA)." Prof Potgieter said, as a result, the

Nobel Prize in Physics 2019 was awarded for contribution to our understanding of evolution of the Universe and earth's place in the cosmos which shows how astronomy is important in our lives. She concluded her talk by mentioning that she understands that the tutorial astrolab has been developed in a way that allows undergraduate students in sciences to plan and to perform real-time observations with a remote telescope, and to transform those observations into scientific results.

South Africa has a long history of excellence in Astronomy, a sound high-tech infrastructure and clear skies.



Prof Michele Gerbaldi from Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris, France thanked all the organisers and sponsors of the workshop. She said the workshop is taking place because of their efforts and their dedications. "To set up such a workshop requires a strong financial support, given by many institutions, the Department of Science and Technology, the University of Venda, the Las Cumbres Observatory and the Office of Astronomy for development (OAD)."

Prof Gerbaldi further highlighted that the OAD is a joint project of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and the South African National Research Foundation (NRF) with the support of the Department of Science and Technology (DST). "Astrolab is an inquiry-based lab at undergraduate level, it is not for the training of future astronomers but to help students to acquire a scientific knowledge." She said students are required to take an active role in determining how to collect and analyze the data to fulfill the goal of the lab in order to engage them more thoroughly in the scientific process. "The role of the Tutors is fundamental and Astrolab can open new windows in science education as it is not simply an inquiry-based lab activity, but a real STEM activity (combining Science Technology Engineering Mathematics)."

Participating Universities include University of Venda as host, University of South Africa, University of Johannesburg, University of Limpopo, University of Zululand, University of Fort Hare, University of KwaZulu Natal, University of North West, University of Cape Town, Mulungushi University (Zambia), Mukuba University (Zambia), Copperbelt University (Zambia), Anambra State University (Nigeria) and Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris (IAP), (France). Organizations that are present include the Department of Science and Innovation, National Astrophysics and Space Science Programme (NASSP), National Research Foundation (NRF), South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO), Las Cumbres Observatory and International Astronomical Union (IAU)



Dr. Eric Maluta (UNIVEN), Prof Michele Gerbaldi, IAP (France), Mr. Takalani Nemaungani, (DSI), Professor Sivakumar Venkataraman UKZN (NASSP) and Dr. Jili Thulani (Unizulu)



Attendees of the workshop posing for a photo outside Research Conference Centre



Dr. Jili Thulani (Unizulu), Mr. Kevin Govender, Mr. Takalani Nemaungani, (DSI), Prof Jan Crafford (DVC Academic) and Dr. Eric Maluta (UNIVEN)

Dr Mahwasani Launches her book in China



Dr Mahwasane (middle) with some of the conference organisers of the World Education Day Assembly-2019



Dr Mahwasane went to China where she was invited to go and present during the World Education Day Assembly 2019 (WEDA-2019). The conference was held on the 27th to 29th September 2019 at International Conference Center which is the Official Venue for Summer Davos World Economic Forum. The hosting organisations were the BIT Congress Inc. The theme of the conference was "Reshaping the global future of education for all." Dr Mahwasane contributed to the aim of the conference and highlighted her findings concerning the dropout learners and students, that not all learners who drop out of school are necessarily slow learners, but most of them dropped out because they were not identified in time that they have relapsed back to illiteracy while being in the classroom. Reading activities and programmes play a critical role in encouraging learners to master

the reading skills needed for learners to learn and progress in their studies. In the WEDA-2019 world known educators, presidents of famous universities and licensed agencies, etc. shared ideas, successful stories, and research findings. The WEDA-2019 participants were exposed to the latest trend of education industry while experts from different countries revealed their cutting-edge skills in transferring education through contemporary technologies. Prof. Mansheng Zhou the Vice- President, and Chinese Society of Educational Development delivered his keynote address on the title: Strengthen the reform and opening-up of education and promote the cooperation and exchange of basic education. Dr. Julie Furst-Bowe the Vice-President, Chippewa Valley Technical College from USA also delivered the keynote address on the title: A systematic approach to leadership development in higher education.

When launching her books, Dr Mahwasane went on and indicated that education goes hand in hand with the libraries. Libraries instil the love for books in learners which in turn develop the reading culture in learners. As a result libraries, school, academic and community libraries should be highly valued because they are the hub and intellectual one stop to information in our lives. My argument was that school library usage by learners assist in encouraging and supporting learners to nurture a good reading habits and develop to be the habitual adult reader.

Directorate of Research and Innovation Staff on Principal External Stakeholders' Engagements



Deputy Director General for Technology Innovation DSI, Mr Mmboneni Muofhe, Director Research and Innovation UNIVEN, Senior Professor Georges Ekosse and colleagues after the meeting.

The Director of Research and Innovation, Senior Professor Georges Ekosse led a delegation consisting of the Adjunct Research Professor who is also the Group Executive Research and Development at the Water Research Commission Dr Stanley Liphadzi, the Research Administration Coordinator, Mrs Julia Sigama and the Grants Administration Officer, Mr Stanley Lesufi to meet with principal external stakeholders in the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), and the National Intellectual Property Management Office (NIPMO) both in Pretoria. The purpose of the working visit, which took place on 22 – 24 October 2019, was to engage with senior staff of the two Government Agencies on strategic matters that impact on management and operation of the Directorate of Research and Innovation (DRI) at University of Venda (UNIVEN).

At DSI, the meeting was chaired by the Deputy Director General for Technology Innovation, Mr Mmboneni Muofhe. His team consisted of the Chief Director Space Science and Technology (Mr H Mudau), the Chief Director Hydrogen and Energy (Dr R Maserumule), and the Director

Industry & Environment Bio-Innovation (Dr K Rashamuse). Deliberations dwelt on Energy; Industrial Biotechnology; Space Science; and Current & Possible collaborative Projects for DSI and UNIVEN. It was also agreed that the following projects be considered for development: Sub-tropical Belt Water Catchment; Innovation for Economic Development; Geo-Information System Services; Risk and Vulnerability Centre; and active participation in the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone (SEZ). The University of Venda is currently involved in a DSI-Artificial Wetland Research Project.

At NIPMO, discussions addressed current and future staffing at UNIVEN's Office of the Technology Transfer (OTT). The Head of NIPMO (Dr K Faul) and her team consisting of Director: Fund and Incentives Management (Ms P Phiri), Deputy Director: Intellectual Property Specialist (Ms N Ngoasheng), and Deputy Director: OTT Liaison (Ms L Kula). It should be noted that NIPMO through DSI provides continuous expert and financial support to the existence and operations of OTT at UNIVEN.



Head of NIPMO (Dr K Faul) with NIPMO and UNIVEN colleagues

Dr Nthambeleni Presents the 2021-2025 Draft Strategic Plan to Thulamela Local Municipality



The University of Venda is embarking on strategic stakeholder engagement sessions. On Tuesday, 19 November 2019, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni accompanied by the Director of Communications and Marketing Dr Takalani Dzaga and some staff members, visited Thulamela Local Municipality to share with them the University's 2021-2025 draft Strategic Plan. The Strategic plan is yet to be approved by Council in 2020. The Vice-Chancellor and Principal told the Mayor of Thulamela, Cllr Avhashoni Tshifhango and his Senior Managers that "we want a University that has impact and influence which is productive and efficient". He mentioned the advantage that UNIVEN has as a Comprehensive University that offers programmes offered by both traditional universities as well as universities of technology. Dr Nthambeleni said that as a University we must be seen contributing to the economic development of the municipality and the country at large. In his presentation, he also touched on the issue of the University Town concept which is still at the planning stages.

Dr Nthambeleni said it is through all strategic stakeholders' participation that the University will be able to craft a strategic plan that best presents what the University community wants the institution to become. He further highlighted that comments and inputs by the Municipality will help the University when refining the draft strategic plan into a much stronger final product.

As part of the University's strategic stakeholder engagement, Thulamela Local Municipality was also given an opportunity to make inputs, suggestions and comments on this Draft Strategic Plan. The Mayor of Thulamela Municipality and his team displayed great support of the 2021-2025 Strategic plan of the University.

"we want a University that has impact and influence which is productive and efficient"

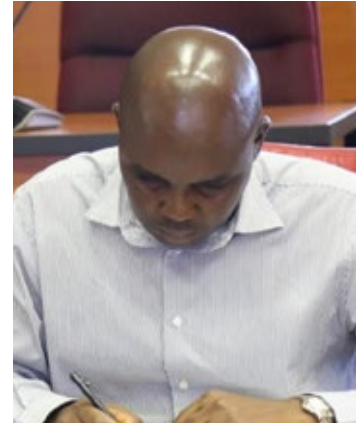


The Municipal Manager of Thulamela Municipality, Mr Emmanuel Maluleke, shared the developments of the Municipality which must be inclusive. He also made mention of the road to UNIVEN which is under construction. Mr Maluleke stated that Thulamela Municipality is still regarded by the Province as one of the best municipalities.



The Mayor of Thulamela, Cllr Avhashoni Tshifhango

The UNIVEN delegation was welcomed by the Mayor, Cllr Avhashoni Tshifhango. In his welcome remarks, he indicated that if the University is developed, it will attract better prepared students. Cllr Tshifhango wished the University success in its new direction.



The Municipal Manager, Mr Emmanuel Maluleke

The Senior Manager of Planning and Development at Thulamela Municipality, Mr Masala Makumule proposed a vote of thanks.



The Senior Manager of Planning and Development, Mr Masala Makumule (far left)



UNIVEN and Thulamela Local Municipality representatives posing for a photo

Local farmers benefit from a joint Agricultural Research Council and UNIVEN Sweet Potato Farmers Field day

The School of Agriculture of the University of Venda (UNIVEN) jointly with the Agricultural Research Council - Vegetable and Ornamental Plant Institute (ARCVOPI) hosted a Sweet Potato Farmers Field Day to educate farmers from surrounding communities about the new orange-fleshed types of sweet potato. This event took place at C1 Lecture Hall and Experimental Farm of the School of Agriculture on Thursday, 17 October 2019.

The objectives of this Farmers field day were to exchange information on the production and nutritional benefits of the new orange-fleshed sweet potato varieties as well as, to demonstrate their field performance.



Ms Whelma Mphela, a Research Technician from ARC-VOPI explained that the different new varieties that were undergoing a field test at UNIVEN are adapted to the local environmental conditions but must be validated over several cropping seasons and locations in other provinces. "We had 24 new experimental varieties which we planted in different locations including in Ga-Sekukhune and in Pretoria. Eight (08) of them have shown to can survive under a wide range of environmental conditions." She explained that some of them can tolerate drought, hence can reduce production costs for farmers. Ms Mphela also emphasized that sweet potato is a summer crop and could have been harvested much earlier before the onset of the winter season in June/July. The growth period is between 3 and 5 months on average depending on the specific variety. These experimental new varieties have not yet been released for commercial production for them to be assigned commercial names as well as enable seed distribution.

ARC has two nurseries in Limpopo, one in Nzhelele and another one in Tzaneen which provide farmers with clean seed.



Ms Whelma Mphela from Agricultural Research Council talking about sweet potatoes to local farmers, UNIVEN staff members and students



Professor of J.B.O. Ogola (Agronomy, Department of Plant Production) explained to the farmers that the vine of the sweet potato plant can also be consumed as a vegetable (morogo) and can be used also as fodder for livestock. "You can also use the top part as seed or to plough it back into the soil or use as a highly nutritious vegetable." He said this orange-fleshed type of sweet potato is more nutritious than the normal sweet potato. "It is good for children particularly under the age of five (5) years. It is rich in micro nutrients required by the body for good development in early childhood. It can help to fight the malnutrition that was experienced by Africa in the past" said Prof Ogola.

"Sweet potatoes are normally planted for about four (4) months and if you delay the harvesting, the roots might be attacked by insects pests"



Ms Dipolelo Moseki, a fourth year student in the Department of Plant Production who maintained the crop at the Experimental Farm explained that some of the challenges she encountered included shortage of water for irrigation and late season insect pests due to delayed harvesting. "Sweet potatoes are normally planted for about four (4) months and if you delay the harvesting, the roots might be attacked by insects pests", said Dipolelo.



Mr Thomas Ramuthaga who represented the farmers said as farmers, they appreciated the good work that UNIVEN and ARC are doing for the local farmers.

He said most people who are involved in Agriculture are women, even from his observations of the UNIVEN Agriculture students, most of whom are females. He thanked all the School of Agriculture staff members for sharing their knowledge with community members free of charge. Mr Ramuthanga told farmers to try to pick up what the School of Agriculture is feeding them with because this will benefit them in their future. He remarked that it was gratifying to see fellow Africans helping each other in realizing an African dream.



Ms Mashudu Makhado who is a Technician in the Department of Horticultural Sciences said water is a global issue and therefore the new drought tolerant varieties are good for our farmers and the country at large.

Research and Innovation Directorate on Retreat

Staff of the Directorate of Research and Innovation had a retreat which took place from 30 October to 02 November 2019 at Swadini Forever Resort. The purpose of the retreat was for the staff in the Directorate to take stock of its 2019 activities in line with UNIVEN's current strategic objective on Advancing the Research and Innovation Mandate; and further align the activities of the Directorate with the new strategic thrusts that are being proposed for UNIVEN. The four new strategic thrusts discussed are: Student Centeredness and Engaged Scholarship; Entrepreneurial University; Governance for Outstanding Scholarship; and Linkages, Partnerships and Internationalization.

On the second day, discussions were held on the Vision, Mission and Values of UNIVEN and those of the Directorate of Research and Innovation. This was followed by an appraisal of the strengths and weaknesses presently existing in the Directorate, and suggestions of improvement where applicable as way forward. Some of the strengths discussed include:

- Sourcing funds for research for internal stakeholders from Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), Technology Innovation Agency (TIA), National Intellectual Property Management Office (NIPMO), National Research Foundation (NRF), Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) among others, and making the funds available for research and innovation activities;
- The Directorate continues to play a major pivotal role in human capacity development of UNIVEN researchers through allocation of research grants, conference and workshop participation; article writing retreats, mentoring sessions, research open day, research indaba, honours and postgraduate students gathering, research and intellectual property stakeholders' day; and;

Staff in the Directorate have diverse disciplinary, administrative and managerial skills which bring to bear excellent services being rendered to its stakeholders.

Staff belaboured on the fact that UNIVEN has not been able to forge very strong ties with surrounding industries; and the low-level innovative systems within the university but was quick to acknowledge growing improvement; albeit at a slow rate. The effective implementation of performance information management in place would

encourage staff to bolster their expected deliverables.

Other matters of deliberations included staff performance information management, 2020 Academic Year Plan; and organogram and future expansion of operational scope and workings of the Directorate. In rounding up the retreat, staff in the Directorate appreciate the efforts of executive and senior management in creating an enabling environment for the realization of UNIVEN's Research and Innovation mandate.



Some of the staff in the Directorate of Research and Innovation during team building exercise



Director Research and Innovation (Senior Professor GE Ekosse) during team building exercise



The Director Research and Innovation (Senior Professor GE Ekosse) with colleagues on the third day of the retreat

Welcoming Prof Jephias Matunhu as Visiting Scholar to University of Venda

The Institute for Rural Development and Directorate of International

Relations are pleased to announce that they are cohosting Prof Jephias Matunhu during his month-long contact leave (up to Friday, 6 December 2019). Prof Matunhu holds a PhD in Development Studies from the

University of Fort Hare. Currently, he is the Director of the Tugwi-Mukosi Multidisciplinary Research Institute at the Midlands State University (MSU), Zimbabwe. Prior to his current appointment, he served as the founding Chairperson of the Department of Development Studies at the same University.

Prof Matunhu is proud to have worked with the Africa Centre for Technology Studies and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) based in Nairobi, Kenya, in developing the Ecosystems-based Agriculture and Food Security

Assembly (EBAFOSA). The African Union ratified the latter Assembly on 12 July 2015. Apart from this, Prof Matunhu has registered the following achievements in his academic and general professional life:

1. Current Secretary of the Advisory Board of Heifer International Zimbabwe;
2. Overall winner of the 2018 Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) essay competition on "Application of the Sufficiency

Economy Philosophy" in development work;

3. Member of the Zimbabwe delegation to Thailand under the TICA programme in 2017;
4. Member of the Zimbabwe delegation to South Korea for training in small to medium enterprises policies in 2015;
5. Notable scholarly accomplishments to date are:
 - (a) Published 38 peer-reviewed journal articles;
 - (b) Authored 2 books and 5 book chapters;
 - (c) Read or presented about 36 papers at international conferences over the past 10 years;
 - (d) Extensive experience in initiating development projects, including supervision of 136 Honours research projects, 67 Masters dissertations and 6 PhD theses; and
 - (e) Serving as external examiner for 8 universities, including UNIVEN.

During his stay, Prof Matunhu is exploring the possibility of concretising synergies, understudying community engagement programmes and identifying opportunities for establishing multi-disciplinary research. In this regard, he is available to discuss possible collaboration in the following areas: Water management, rural livelihoods, value addition, innovation, industrialisation of ideas, and climate smart agriculture.



Prof Matunhu can be contacted at Office No. 46 in the Institute for Rural Development or via Ext. 9046 or 9045.

Prof Matunhu is scheduled to deliver a seminar on the topic: External Examiner's Observations and Suggestions for Strengthening Quality of Postgraduate Research in South African Historically

Disadvantaged and Advantaged Universities.

The seminar will take place at the Research Conference Centre on Monday, 25 November 2019 between 09:00 and 10:00 am.

The announcement was jointly prepared by the Directors of Institute for Rural Development and International Relations.

New EU Erasmus+ Capacity Building Project Coordinators visit UNIVEN

A new grant was received for an EU Erasmus+ Capacity building project for a period between 2019-2022 to the tune of €1 million. The project titled: 'Empowering universities' Learning and Research Capacities in the one Health Approach for the Management of animals at the wildlife, livestock and human interface in South Africa (ELEPHANT) will look at the various aspect of One Health approaches which include, conservation, diseases and public health, rights, interaction with humans and livelihoods.

The project leader, Prof Victor Rutten, from the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands and Prof Anita Michel, University of Pretoria paid a visit to the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni in his office. Dr Nthambeleni congratulated the visitors for the new grant as he welcomed them to the University. He mentioned that the importance of a collaborative work like this cannot be overemphasized. He also reaffirmed the unalloyed support of

the University management for successful implementation of the project at UNIVEN.

The ELEPHANT consortium consists of six South African Higher Education Institutions which are University of Venda (UNIVEN), University of Pretoria (UP), University of Fort Hare (UFH), University of Limpopo (UL), University of Mpumalanga (UM), Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC) and two European Universities: University of Utrecht (UU), The Netherlands and University of Bologna (UNIBO), Italy that will share expertise and apply an inter and trans-disciplinary approach to create a One Health (OH) team with empowered research capacities to be extended beyond the end of the project. The Project will be coordinated at UNIVEN by the Directorate of International Relations. Delegates from UU and UP visited on 12 November 2019. The meeting was held at the Life Sciences Building Boardroom. The Purpose of the meeting was to introduce the project formally to the right stakeholders at the University.



Dr. Bernard Nthambeleni, Vice-Chancellor and Principal in the middle with Prof Victor Rutten extreme right and Prof Anita Michel extreme left during the courtesy call

New EU Erasmus+ Capacity Building Project Coordinators visit UNIVEN continued...



Participants at the ELEPHANT Project meeting during the visit to UNIVEN



Prof Victor Rutten and Prof Anita Michel, Prof Peter Taylor and Dr Segun Obadire during the meeting with UNIVEN staff members

Dr Segun Obadire, Acting Director International Relations opened the meeting and explained the purpose of the meeting with a brief background of the ELEPHANT project which came as a result of the network formed from the previous Erasmus+ project. Others present at the meeting included Prof Peter Taylor, SaRch Chair in Biodiversity and Value Chain, Prof Lourens Swanepoel, Department of Zoology, Prof Joseph Baloyi, HoD, Animal Science, Dr Takalani Tshitangano, HoD,

Public Health, Dr Jethro Zuwarimwe, Senior Lecturer, IRD. During his presentation, Prof Victor Rutten, said that all South African Higher Educational partner institutions together with European partners will benefit from the training opportunities for their Postgraduate students and staff in the project. There will be opportunity for Postdoctoral training especially in the Departments of Zoology, Animal Science and Public Health. Prof Rutten further explained that the objectives of the project include establishing a new framework of collaboration in an initiative aimed at empowering selected South African Higher Education Institutions (SA HEIs) in the One Health (OH) context.



Some of the staff members participating in the ELEPHANT project

This includes strengthening the capacities in research by implementing innovative research approaches and methodologies in the field of OH, create a collaborative long-lasting interdisciplinary OH network, administrative

authorities to achieve research-based OH related policies and to engage with local communities in order to raise awareness and participation in OH approaches to risk assessment. The team visited the

SaRchi Chair Museum and the Biotech Lab, School of Agriculture. The implementation plan for the project will take place at the University of Pretoria during a Kick-off meeting that will be held in February 2020.

School of Agriculture staff members and postgraduate students discuss challenges to find radical solutions



Postgraduate students and staff at Agricultural hall

On 06 and 07 November 2019, the School of Agriculture held a Postgraduate (PG) Workshop that brought together the Postgraduate students, supervisors and promoters to discuss challenges that students are facing. This postgraduate workshop came up with possible interventions to deal with the challenges identified by the attendees. The workshop took place at the University's Agricultural Hall.



A total of 99 participants, which comprised of 39 staff members and 60 Full-time PG students, attended the Workshop. The participants were from the School of Agriculture Departments (Animal Science, Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, Agricultural Engineering and Biosystem Plant production, Soil Science, Horticultural Science, Forestry, Food Science and Technology and the Institute for Rural Development), Research and Innovation Directorate, Library Services and one student from School of Management Sciences. The School of

Agriculture has 155 registered postgraduate students from nine (9) departments

The Deputy Dean of the School of Agriculture, Professor Joseph Baloyi who is also the Head of Department of Animal Science co-ordinated the workshop and had this to say about the workshop. "The workshop was a great success given the excitement generated among the students and supervisors. From the brainstorming exercise, several challenges faced by both postgraduate students and the academic staff were highlighted. In addition, we had some useful presentations on conceptualization and writing of research proposals, methodology, data collection and analysis to ultimate writing-up dissertations and thesis were discussed."



Prof Baloyi (seated) posing with workshop organisers

UNIVEN closes STEP project 2019



The Student Training for Entrepreneurial Promotion (STEP) launched on 22 July 2019 ended at a function on 17 October 2019 at the UIGC Seminar Room 2, University of Venda (UNIVEN). STEP is a joint project between UNIVEN, UNESCO, Germany and South Africa and Leuphana University of Luneburg, Germany. The initiative was brought to the University through the partnerships between the UNESCO representative and Dr Robert Martin, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Operations).



Students receiving certificates of participation at the STEP Closing function

Students who participated in the STEP programme were presented with certificates of participation during the programme. The students showed their appreciation and promised to continue working on the businesses they started. Prof Vhonani Netshandama, Director Community

Engagement gave the vote of thanks at the end of the programme. Some of the visitors paid a courtesy call to the office of the Vice Chancellor after the programme. Arrangement has been put in place to start a new STEP programme at the University in February 2020.



Dr Bernard Nthabeleni, Vice-Chancellor and Principal meeting with Carina Bohlayer, STEP Coordinator, Leuphana University of Luneburg and Florian Schmidt, UNESCO Germany

In the training, students were allowed to build teams and learn step-by-step how to start their own businesses. Students participated in the project which run different topics on business development, entrepreneurship and psychology for 12 weeks with 100 students. The students were given \$100 in their groups to start their own businesses by the side. Some of the businesses included breakfast meal, fruits and fruit juice, cupcakes, snacks and drinks, etc. Some of the studentpreneurs presented their reports and confirmed that they were able to make profits close to R5000 or more from their businesses which run for 12 weeks.



Dr Robert Martin, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Operations) at the closing function of STEP

The closing function was attended by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Operations), Dr Robert Martin who expressed his gratitude for the donors and dignitaries including UNESCO Germany, represented by Mr Florian Schmitt; UNESCO South Africa by Ms Humbulani Ratshivhombela; BASF, Germany representative; the STEP coordinating university, the Leuphana University of Luneburg, Germany represented by Carina Bohlayer; German Embassy represented by Dr Lisette Andreae; EDHE, USAf, Mr Linda Dhladhla, SEDA, Ms Khosazana Molewa; the facilitators; Research Assistants from Germany and UNIVEN; and the students who formed part of the trainees and those in the control group. He encouraged the students not to stop putting into practice what they have learnt about starting a business.

The School of Law has a Black Female NRF Rated Researcher

Dr Emma Charlene Lubaale has been recognised by the National Research Foundation (NRF) for demonstrating research productivity and positioning herself as an NRF emerging rated researcher in the School of Law. On the basis of the quality and impact of her recent research output, she received an NRF Y2 rating which will be valid from 1st January 2020.



Dr Emma Charlene Lubaale

The achievement of Dr Lubaale as an NRF Y2 rated researcher is crucial in the development of black female academics at UNIVEN. Dr Lubaale is extremely humbled and elated about the recognition. The Dean of School of Law, Professor Lonias Ndlovu, congratulates Dr Lubaale for the recent NRF rating achievement.



Director: Research and Innovation (Senior Professor Georges Ekosse), Dr EC Lubaale, and Dean: School of Law (Prof. Lonias Ndlovu)

He believes her rating will inspire other researchers to equally become rated. Dr Ndlovu hopes that she will work hard to become an established researcher in five years. In commending Dr Lubaale, the Director of Research and Innovation, Senior Professor Georges Ekosse, expressed with passion that Research is complete when it is disseminated, shared and recognised as new knowledge for the benefit of humankind. The mandate of the Directorate of Research and Innovation is to make research at UNIVEN a pivot around which academic activities revolve.

Transforming Marude into a Model Secondary School

Fourth Year Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning (BURP) students undertook an Integrated Development Project (IDP) titled 'Transforming Marude Secondary School into a model school' as part of the Department's community engagement imperatives. The project was coordinated by Dr Emaculate Ingwani and Ms Shylet Anesu Nyamwanza – covering the period from July 2019 to October 2019. The BURP 4th Year students were clustered into three groups to integrate multiple realities on creating a model school while reflecting on the university-town-gown relationships between Marude Secondary School and the University of Venda. The IDP project comprised of desktop analyses; fieldwork research through a reconnaissance; and questionnaire surveys. School teachers and learners at Marude Secondary School as well as informal traders that operate at the school gate were targeted for participation in the survey. Data presentation and analysis was aided by computer software packages including Statistical Package for the

Social Services (SPSS), AutoCAD, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The constructed alignment of these IDP activities demonstrates intricate relationships 'between' research, teaching and community engagement in a university context. Teaching and learning methodologies such as coaching, workshopping, discovery and mentoring were used to activate the community engaged pedagogies through IDP.

On 16 October 2019, BURP 4th Year students presented the research findings of the situation analysis undertaken at Marude Secondary School to stakeholders including officials from Thulamela Local Municipality; the Principal, teachers and learners from Marude Secondary School; the Community Engagement Directorate; and academics from other departments at the University of Venda. These stakeholders together with staff members from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning formed a panel of assessors for the IDP.



Dr Chakwizira welcoming stakeholders



Dr Ingwani explaining the concept of IDP to stakeholders



Students collecting data during fieldwork



Panel of IDP assessors

Professor Vhonani Netshandama (Directorate of Community Engagement); Mr Mbedzi (Thulamela Local Municipality); Mr Nepfumembe (Thulamela Local Municipality); Mr Muthelo (The Principal of Marude Secondary School); Mr Khorommbi (Deputy Principal of Marude Secondary School); Mrs Mapholi (a teacher at Marude Secondary School); Mr Vhutshilo Nekhubvi (Maths Department, University of Venda); two learners from Marude Secondary School (Ratondwa Munzhelele and Mulalo Ndou); staff members from the URP Department including Dr Chakwizira (HoD), Dr Ingwani (IDP Coordinator), Ms Akola and Ms Nyamwanza were present during the presentations. Each group presentation was followed by a question and answer session from the assessors to verify the research findings.



4th Year BURP presenting the research findings

Key findings show that the school requires implementation of precinct design, as well as landscape architectural plans and strategies to enhance the design, legibility, maintenance, and safety at the school.



Mr Nepfumembe giving his remarks



Professor Netshandama giving her remarks

In her remarks and words of encouragement, Professor Netshandama was pleased with the quality of presentations from the situation analysis as these not only provide important groundwork towards improving the situation at Marude Secondary School, but constitute a classical example of a community engaged scholarship and how lecturers and students should take advantage of available opportunities for Work Integrated Learning projects in neighbourhoods. Thulamela Local Municipality was also pleased with the quality of presentations.

Transforming Marude into a Model Secondary School continued...



Mulalo Ndou, a learner from Marude School giving his remarks



Dr Chakwizira giving his remarks



URP 4th Year students and staff members posing for a photo with stakeholders

As a result of the 16 October 2019 IDP presentations, the BURP 4th Year students were further requested to present their research findings from the situation analysis of Marude Secondary School to a wider University community and stakeholders. Among the invited stakeholders were Professor Jan Crafford (DVC Academic); officials from the Department of Education (Vhembe East District); the Principal of

Marude Secondary School; and staff members from other departments at the University of Venda.

Dr Chakwizira acknowledged the stakeholders present and underscored that the Department of Urban and Regional Planning was humbled to showcase their contribution to the flagship project on making Marude a model school through community engaged teaching and learning.

Prof Crafford expressed his sincere gratitude to Dr Chakwizira and Dr Ingwani for championing the Marude Secondary School research through community engaged teaching, learning and research.



Professor Crafford addressing the attendees

Professor Crafford pointed out that the project undertaken by BURP students at Marude Secondary School was a special activity and was the beginning of "big things for Marude Secondary School" as the University of Venda cannot divorce itself from carrying a responsibility of promoting excellence on this 'flagship university school'. Professor Crafford added that Marude Secondary School is a flagship project

that requires a hands-on approach for its transformation into a model school, and that there is need to create synergetic and symbiotic relationships between University of Venda for the school to be modelled in similar fashion as with the University of Pretoria and its neighbouring school(s). It is therefore a University of Venda's dream to fully integrate Marude Secondary School into UNIVEN.



Professor Netshandama explaining the purpose of the meeting



Dr N.G. Rambiyana from the Department of Education (Vhembe East) thanked the students, the URP staff members and Professor Netshandama for organizing the presentations. He indicated the need for further collaborative engagement on sustainable strategies for transforming the school.

In her closing remarks, Professor Netshandama encouraged colleagues/schools that were represented at the meeting to take advantage of foundational work done by Dr Ingwani and utilize their expertise appropriately to participate in the broader project on Marude Secondary School.

Tshiane Ndou benefits from JRS Biodiversity Foundation Grant

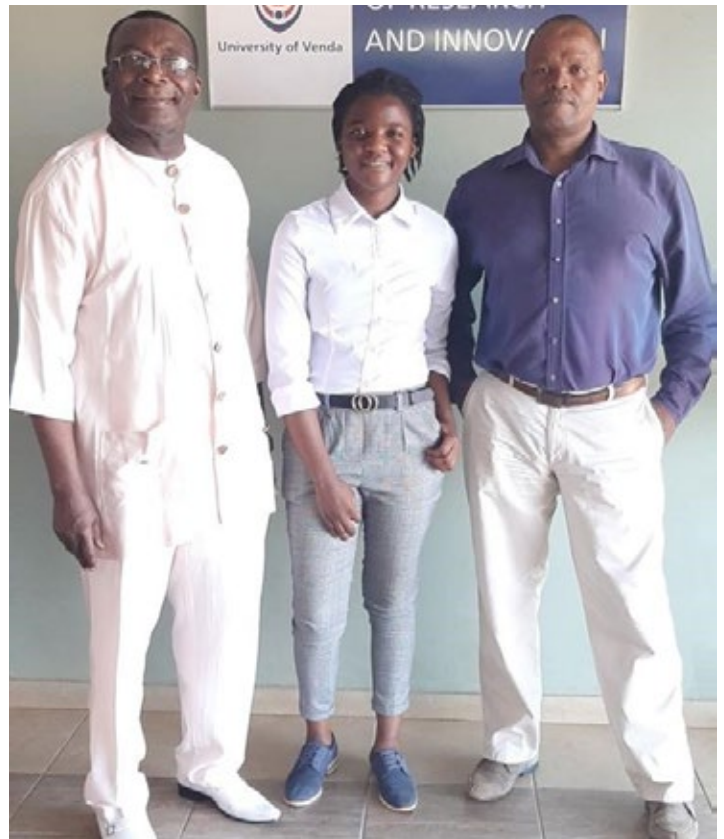
Ms Tshiane Ndou, a second year MSc student in the School of Environmental Sciences won an award to participate in a short course on "Measuring Ecosystem Services & Essential Biodiversity Variables" which was organized by JRS Biodiversity Foundation. The JRS Biodiversity Foundation is an independent grant-making foundation in sub-Saharan Africa. The course took place at the University of Rwanda Kigali from 16th - 26th September 2019. Though the course was opened to Africabased participants from eight countries in East Africa, an exception was made to accommodate her.

Upon arrival back at UNIVEN, Ms. Ndou was congratulated by Senior Professor GE Ekosse, Director of Research and Innovation. Senior Prof Ekosse commended her for taking the initiative on her own to search for scholarly opportunities that assist in advancing her career growth and development.

Ms. Ndou believes that this course exposed her internationally into a networking interaction with the scientists in the field of Geography and Biodiversity.



Tshiane Ndou (middle) receiving her certificate



Senior Professor GE Ekosse, Ms Tshiane Ndou, and Dr Owen Nkosinathi at the Directorate of Research and Innovation, UNIVEN.



Participants and facilitators of the course in Rwanda.

UNIVEN Hosts Fulbright Scholarships Information Session



Some of the participants at the Fulbright Scholarship Information session

On Thursday, 14 November 2019, the Directorate of International Relations of the University of Venda (UNIVEN) hosted the Fulbright Scholarship Program to encourage and discuss the program and application process with interested staff and students. This information session was held at the University's Research Conference Centre. The attendees were honours, masters and PhD students and staff from UNIVEN.

The Fulbright Foreign Student Scholarship is an opportunity for South African university graduates to pursue a Master's or Doctoral degree at any American universities. The grant is a two-year award towards a Master's and four-year for a Doctorate.



Marion Lange and Charmain Botha from the office of Public Diplomacy at the U.S Embassy, Pretoria.

In their presentation they highlighted:

- The Fulbright Student program which targets candidates who want to pursue an MA or a PhD in the United States.
- An option to apply for a non-degree one-year research fellowship. South African PhD candidates would be eligible for the non-degree option. They could go to the U.S. for a year of research toward their PhD in South Africa.
- The Fulbright Scholar program meant for tenured faculty with at least 5 years of teaching experience and a substantive publishing portfolio.

Students will be selected through a rigorous online application and interview process. Fulbright South Africa is pleased to offer a high level of support to applicants throughout. For application information, please visit za.usembassy.gov/fulbright.

Attendees asked questions and engage with the presenters during the interactive session.



Media Student and International Relations Student Helpdesk Volunteer, Mr. Malapi Morifi was the coordinator of the session

The session was officially opened by the Acting Director of International Relations, Dr Segun Obadire who welcomed the delegates and attendees. He further gave an overview of UNIVEN's current cooperation in place with U.S. universities/colleges/community colleges and discussed trends and synergies. This was done through a presentation that showed projects done with other universities such as the US-SA Higher Education Network in support of the Universities Staff Doctoral Program (USDPP).

Fulbright Scholarship Program Coordinators, Marion Lange and Charmain Botha from the United States (US) Embassy in Pretoria gave a presentation to all interested persons across disciplines on all available Fulbright Scholarships. Their Presentation also touched on enhancing International opportunities through fellowships and grants.

The Fulbright Foreign Student Scholarship is an opportunity for South African university graduates to pursue a Master's or Doctoral degree at any American universities.



Attendees during the interactive session

UNIVEN hosts the SACI Young Chemists Symposium 2019

On Thursday, 31 October 2019, the Chemistry Department of the University of Venda (UNIVEN) hosted the South African Chemical Institute (SACI) Young Chemists Symposium to encourage young Chemists about the Scientific and technological relationships. This Symposium was held at the University's Research Conference Centre. The attendees of this Symposium were honours, masters and PhD students from SACI North Section. SACI North Section is comprised of UNIVEN, University of Limpopo, Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University, Tshwane University of Technology, University of Pretoria, CSIR, and NECSA.

During this annual symposium, one masters and one PhD student from each participating institution are given a chance to make oral presentations whereas one Honours student from each participating institution are given a chance to present their posters. Three best presenters from each category were given prizes sponsored by the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC). About 80 abstracts were submitted of which 33 were from honours students.



Prof Natasha Potgieter: Dean of the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences

The Dean of the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences, Prof Natasha Potgieter said it is good to see young people gathered here. This shows that they have a passion in what they do. "The next generation should know that we are paving a way for them. This is a very good idea, we do not only need symposiums like this, but we should also talk about chemistry whenever we meet." She advised them to learn from each other and to ask questions where they don't understand.

"The next generation should know that we are paving a way for them. This is a very good idea, we do not only need symposiums like this, but we should also talk about chemistry whenever we meet."



Dr Lucky Sikhwihulu from Mintec: Guest Speaker

Guest Speaker, Dr Lucky Sikhwihulu from Mintec spoke about Chemist of the Future: understanding Science and Technological relationships. He spoke about definitions of chemistry and how chemistry is applied on a daily basis. Dr Sikhwihulu told postgraduate students to position themselves in a way that they can make money for a living. "With chemistry, we can create future solutions, we can also create future businesses. As a student, ask yourself why you are doing chemistry, how are you going to make a living with the qualification that you have and to what extent are you ready to study."

Prof Richard Mampa from UL thanked all who attended and for making this occasion what it is. He also thanked staff members from the 6 participating Universities.



Poster presentation session of SACI postgraduates



Prof Richard Mampa from UL: Chairperson of SACI North section



SACI delegates listening to presentations

Prof Mampa said this was a prestigious event, "this was a top-notch event and we wish the next hosting University will be able to keep the standard to this level." He thanked the sponsors and the Department of Chemistry for a well-organized symposium.

Below are award winners in various categories:

Tebogo Mokgehele
3rd prize in PhD oral presentation
Motlatso Malapne
2nd prize in MSc oral presentation
Mfundo Mabuza
1st prize in postgraduate poster presentation
Anitah Nkuna
2nd prize in postgraduate poster presentation
Lucille Mbonzhe
1st prize in in honours poster presentation
Ndamu Phosha
2nd prize in honours poster presentation
Maduvha Tshidevehele
3rd prize in honours poster presentation
Thompho Ravele
5th prize in honours poster presentation
Tshilidzi Rampfumedzi
6th prize in honours poster presentation

The UNIVEN Chemistry Department brought home nine (9) prizes in total.



Award winners posing with their certificates

UNIVEN hosts the SACI Young Chemists Symposium 2019 continued...

The new committee was elected where Prof Comfort Nkambule from TUT was elected the next Chair of SACI. Deputy Chair is Dr Simon Mnyakeni-Moleele from UNIVEN; Treasurer is Dr Mmalewane Modibedi from CSIR; Dr Molahlehi Sonopo from NECSA was elected as the secretary; Dr Jurgens Lanart from UP is the Student Representative; Mrs Maria Mogane for Membership Scientific Programme and Prof Richard Mampa for Events. The 2020 Symposium will be hosted by the University of Pretoria.

The SACI symposium coincided with the UNIVEN Science Company Expo hosted by the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences organized by the Chemistry Department. This gave the symposium delegates time to interact with the exhibitors and learnt the latest in research equipment and consumables on offer. The exhibiting companies were Inqaba biotech, Prestige Laboratory Suppliers, Hanna Instruments, Laboratory Consumables and Chemical Suppliers, Monitoring and Control Laboratories, United Scientific, Chemetrix, Labotech, Metrohm, Merck, Labex, Metrohm and Analytical solutions.



New SACI Young Chemist committee



Lynne Pitcher Royal Chemistry Society (RCS) representative receiving appreciation gift



Professor Comfort Nkambule with his TUT student delegates posing for a picture



UNIVEN student dance group entertaining the audience



SACI delegates interaction with exhibitors

UNIVEN scoops awards during SAAFoST Student Day Northern branch 2019

A total of sixty (60) third year students from UNIVEN's Department of Food Science and Technology attended the South African Association for Food Science and Technology (SAAFoST) Student Day which was held at the University of Pretoria (UP) on Friday, 25 October 2019.

Students from University of Johannesburg (UJ), University of Venda (UNIVEN), Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) and University of Pretoria (UP) exhibited their new food products (NFPs) development under the theme 'South African's Future Food Technologists and Scientists'. UNIVEN had seven (7) groups that produced different NFPs such as Gluten-free flat bread (Sorghum-legume flours), Nut-free energy bar (lentil seeds), Pumpkin (indigenous) seed and raisins, Mofii biscuits (Mopane worms and finger millet flours), Papaya-kiwi jam, Oats-pawpaw biscuits and Sorghum mini loaf. These students were promoting the use of indigenous, underutilized and smart food crops that are available in Vhembe District. These product packaging materials were designed by students. Each university was awarded R4000.00.

The following products won awards for UNIVEN: Gluten-free flat bread won the Best Product and Awarded R1700.00; second winner was Mofii Biscuits and third winning product was Oats-pawpaw biscuits and was awarded R1000.00.

The student food product development project is coordinated by Dr Shonisani Ramashia (Lecturer), Ms Thembi Malaza, assisted by Ms Tabea Mokhele (Sensory Evaluation Technician), Mr Ndivhuwo Matodzi (Pilot Plant Technician), Ms Bono Nethathe (Food Microbiologist) and Ms Babra Moyo (Food Chemistry Technician).

The students were promoting the use of indigenous, under-utilized and smart food crops that are available in Vhembe District.



Judges and Dr. E. Kayitesi (Snr Lecturer) from UJ during the awards presentation



Ms Tabea Mokhele



Seven (7) different new food products produced by Univen



UNIVEN staff members and students posing for a group photo at the University of Pretoria



Gluten-free flat bread won the Best Product Award



Dr. Ramashia and Mr. Matodzi



Oats paw-paw (left) and mofii biscuits (right)



Mofii biscuits 2nd prize winners



Oats-pawpaw biscuits 3rd prize winners

UNIVEN researcher part of 'game-changing' discovery that could solve many of evolution's great mysteries

The molecule known as DNA (Deoxyribose nucleic acid) has survived in an unbroken line of descent through generations of living organisms for the last 3.5 billion years. However, DNA does not do as well once an organism has died. The science of ancient DNA attempts to retrieve DNA fragments from biological material that has long been dead, such as museum skins, bones and fossils. Thus far, and despite the best efforts of ancient DNA scientists, the oldest fossil to ever yield DNA has been about 700 thousand years old.

But DNA is not the only biological material that can survive in a fossil. Proteins, especially the proteins making up dental enamel, can theoretically survive much longer than DNA. Professor Yoshan Moodley of the Department of Zoology is part of an international team of researchers that have managed to extract the proteins from the dental enamel of a 1.7-million-year tooth of a long-extinct rhinoceros species. Using ground-breaking technology called mass spectrometry, researchers at the University of Copenhagen were able to retrieve amino acid sequences

from the ancient fossil. Once obtained, this protein information was readily converted into a DNA sequence. This amazing discovery signals a revolution in evolutionary research as it pushes the boundary on detectable genetic information to well into the latter half of the Pleistocene epoch, opening up an entire new field of research, which they call Palaeoproteomics. Using and developing this new approach in the future will enable us to see with high clarity much further back in time than ever before.

This research is published this week in the journal *Nature*, which along with the journal *Science*, are the two most prestigious scientific journals in the world. Up until this week, the University of Venda has never produced a paper in *Nature*, and only in 2016 did we produce our first ever paper in *Science*, again through the genetic research of Prof. Moodley. We salute this achievement by one of our own scientists, and encourage our academic staff to become more involved in international collaborations that could lead to other ground-breaking discoveries in the future.



The famous Stepanhorinus skull from which protein sequences were obtained. Photo credit: Mirian Kiladze, Georgian National Museum

UNIVEN Sport and Recreation Unit hosts the first ever Amateur Boxing Tournament



Amateur Boxing bout taking place in the Sports Hall

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) Sport and Recreation Unit under the Student Affairs Department successfully organized the first ever Amateur Boxing Tournament in the history of the University on 12 October 2019. The tournament took place in the University Sport Hall.



UNIVEN Amateur Boxers posing for a photo

The tournament was graced by participation of eight (8) local and provincial amateur boxing clubs with a total of 48 amateur boxers. In total, twenty-one (21) amateur boxers from different clubs were crowned as champions under different weight divisions. The tournament was supported by representatives from of Limpopo Boxing Association and Mr. Baloyi (Founder of Malamulele Amateur Boxing Academy) who sponsored the tournament with equipment of a standard boxing ring, judges and referees.

UNIVEN Boxing club had a total of four (4) amateur boxers who fought under different weight divisions. Three (3) amateur boxers won their respective fights by technical knock out.

The purpose of the tournament was aimed at developing and promoting amateur boxing sport in the University and the surrounding communities in Vhembe District. The tournament also exposed students from the Centre for Biokinetics, Recreation and Sport Science with opportunities for experiential training and hands-on experience under the supervisory guidance of members of staff including Dr. M. Mohlala, Dr V.K Moselakgomo and Mr. M.E Mamabolo. The Sport and Recreation Unit continues to set its footprint in community engagement initiatives through sport-for- development (SFD) programmes to benefit UNIVEN student community and rural villages within the Vhembe District.

"The tournament is in support of the sport development plan of the University in enhancing the quality of student life outside the class room. The sport hall was fully packed to its capacity by UNIVEN students who came to witness and support this prestigious Amateur Boxing Tournament". said Mr Ndiafhi Percy Mugwedi – Sports Administrator

"Credit must be given to all organizers inclusive of members and staff from the Sport and Recreation Unit, officials from the Amateur Boxing Association, participating clubs and particularly Dr Phindane from M.C Phindane Medical and Associates (who voluntarily offered medical screening and consultations to all boxers at no extra cost); Mr Baloyi from Malamulele Amateur Boxing Academy (who voluntarily donated a standard boxing ring equipment for the tournament) and Mr. Muger from N & L Accountants Inc. (who sponsored the tournament with 5 trophies, 35 gold medals and 35 silver medals)" added Mr Ndiafhi Percy Mugwedi, Sports Administrator.



UNIVEN students in attendance to support the Boxing tournament



Mr. Mugwedi (Sports Administrator) with the Medical team during the tournament



Members of boxing association and UNIVEN Staff handing out awards

Below are the results of UNIVEN boxers:

Winners	Club	Results	Weight Division
Mr. Mudzielwana Lusani	UNIVEN	TKO	60kg
Mr. Netshivhodza Lufuno	UNIVEN	TKO	56kg
Mr. Mukwevho Andani	UNIVEN	TKO	56kg

Overall results

Winners	Club	Remarks	Weight Division
Rokhotso Musa	Shawela	Points	64/75kg
Selepe Dimakatso	Bakoena	Points	49kg
Selepe Nare	Bakoena	Points	49kg
Lawrance Makoko	Turf Loop	Abd	64kg
Lesedi Isaac	Turf Loop	Abd	64kg
Mbedzi Itani	Makwarela	Points	69kg
Pfunzo Masuba	Makwarela	TKO	81kg
Mello Johannes	Bakoena	TKO	60 Kg
Nevumbani Muano	Khubvi	Points	52/56kg
Mamatepa Dimakatso	Shawela	Points	57kg
Mashaba Tirhani	Makhoma	Points	64kg
Chauke Praise	Makhoma	Abd	69kg
Tshikhudo Litshani	Ligege	TKO	60kg
Humbulani Ravhanga	Khubvi	TKO	75kg
Masikhwa Mutanganyi	Khubvi	Rsc	60kg
Shivhuri Lara	Makwarela	Rsc	75kg
Mboweni Kulani	Makhoma	Rsc	64kg
Mahani Ntanganedzeni	Khubvi	Points	75kg



UNIVEN members of staff and boxing officials pose for a photo with the best boxers of the tournament



The purpose of the tournament was aimed at developing and promoting amateur boxing sport in the University and the surrounding communities in Vhembe District.

Mr. Mugwedi (Sports Administrator), Mr. Baloyi (Founder -Malamulele Boxing Academy) and Dr. Phindane (Occupational Health Medical Practitioner)

UNIVEN's Community Engagement Directorate and She Reigns empowers young women



Female learners and UNIVEN students listening to the motivational speakers

The University of Venda (UNIVEN)'s Community Engagement Directorate with She Reigns, a girl empowerment organisation recently hosted the International Day of a Girl Child. The event was hosted under the UN 2019 International Day of a Girl Child theme 'Girl Force Unscripted, and Unstoppable' and was hosted at the University's Research Conference Centre. The aim was to assure a girl child that nothing is beyond their wildest dreams and within them lies the capability to achieve anything. The purpose of the initiative was also to challenge common stigmas in society as far as the girl child and leadership qualities are concerned.

Attendees of this event were female learners from Gole Secondary School, Alfred Nngwedzeni Secondary, Redemption Worship Christian Church and UNIVEN female students. Fhumulani Tshivhase, one of the founders of She Reigns mentioned that International Day of Girl Child is at the core of She Reigns' focus as an organisation and this organisation exists to change the girl's perspectives about themselves. She said women who are doing exceptionally well in their various fields were invited to come and motivate, inspire the ladies through sharing their own life experiences.

Among the invited guests were Fuluflhelo Ramulifho from C4You group, Dr Thizwilondi Mudau from UNIVEN Department of Gender and Youth Studies, Londolani Tsanwani the author of *MyScarsMyTestimony*, Prof Vhonani Netshandama the Director of Community Engagement and Kamogelo Maja the Founder of Rise African Child.



The session started with a motivation by Fuluflhelo Ramulifho, the Founder C4U Group. Fuluflhelo Ramulifho stressed that girls should live to unlock the potential that lies within them. She shared her experiences while growing up. Ramulifho blatantly told the girls that success road is not easy but possible.



Lindokuhle Zwane, President of She Reigns at UNIVEN rendered two poems about beauty and self-esteem. The rendered poems made the girls to realise that they can also use their talent to better the lives of other people.



Londolani Tsanwani, the Author of *#MyScarsMyTestimony*, a book motivated by her life story of a tragic accident that took away her fiancé, Mpho Regalo and his mother. She highlighted the importance of perseverance and patience to achieve intended goals in life. She said Resilience for women/girls is one virtue that can take a person very far. Londolani told young women that she rose against all odds after an experience that could have made her to give up.



The event was concluded with a panel discussion. The panellists were Fuluflhelo Ramulifho from C4You group, Dr Thizwilondi Mudau from UNIVEN's Department of Gender and Youth Studies, Prof Vhonani Netshandama, the Director of Community Engagement and Kamogelo Maja the Founder of Rise African Child.

During the panel discussion, various questions that speaks to a girl child were asked and amongst other things, the audience wanted to know about the speakers' journeys and how they triumphed. Dr Mudau from UNIVEN referred to her decision to study gender as profound as she saw a need to know more about the subject to better the lives of women like herself.



Prof Vhonani Netshandama (top) and Kamogelo Maja (Founder Rise African Child)

Prof Netshandama shared her journey in becoming a professor. She mentioned that one can achieve their dreams regardless of where they come from and their circumstances.

Kamogelo Maja, a young activist and transformational leader told young women that engaging with others is vital for success because opportunities come through other people as well.



Change begins with us!!!!
She Reigns Leadership with the speakers



Group photo of attendees and speakers outside Research Conference Centre

Vuwani Science Resource Centre in collaboration with Tshamukwai Na Musuku Trust and Bright Young Leaders initiative hosted the first Rural Innovation Spring Camp



Group photo of the learners who attended the Rural Innovation Camp 2019

Grade 10 learners were motivated to work hard for good grades this year as well as in the following year. They were also reminded that their grade 11 results are important as they are the ones that determine their pre-admission when they apply at tertiary institutions. "For grade 11 learners, mentors and tutors have shared their university first year stories and further discussed with them how to prepare for the university life," concluded Dr Maluta.

"The goal is to foster innovation and encourage young people to think creatively and innovatively in a competitive space"

Vuwani Science Resource Centre under the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences of the University of Venda (UNIVEN) in collaboration with Tshamukwai Na Musuku Trust and Bright Young Leaders Initiative hosted the first Rural Innovation Spring Camp. This Spring Camp targeted grade 10 and 11 learners from Tshimbupfe, John Mutheiwana and Marude Secondary Schools. The Camp was hosted at the Ultimate Guest House in Louis Trichardt (Makhado) from 23 – 28 September 2019.

The Camp was comprised of a space where young learners were exposed to different fields in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Learners were offered a critical and core curricular programme for grade 10 and 11 Physical Sciences and Mathematics, with the inclusion of extensive practical session. The performance of the experiments always simplifies the understanding of their curriculum concepts. Coordinator of the Vuwani Science Resource Centre, Dr Eric Maluta who was the Camp organizer said he believes that knowledge is powerful, but practicality makes one extra ordinary.

The Camp was funded through Socio-Economic Development Contribution by the Highveld Coal Company and organised by Dr Eric Maluta (Coordinator of Vuwani Science Resource Centre, Mrs. Matodzi Malokisa (Co-Founder Bright young leaders Initiative) and Tsedzuliso Netshimbupfe (Co-Founder, Tshamukwai Na Musuku Trust).

Thirty (30) learners from three schools, namely, Tshimbupfe, Marude and Jonathan Mutheiwana secondary schools were selected to be part of this rural innovation Camp.

Several science and innovation activities were performed with the learners during the five days' rural innovation Camp. Tutors managed to cover the grade 10 and 11 Mathematics

and Physical Sciences core curricular during the Camp period. Other activities which were included were the Information Technology and Computer Programming Workshops, Scientific Writing Workshops, Science Practical Skills and Laboratory Work together with Robotics and Engineering Skills.

Facilitators were involved with topics such as Sustainable development goals and Compulsory Community Innovation Projects, Career Development, Introduction to careers in STEM and Role model presentations.

Dr Maluta said that the collaboration between Vuwani Science Resource Centre, Bright Young Leader Initiative and Tshamukwai Na Musuku trust will help learners to be prepared for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). He further mentioned that this has been one of the discussions with learners on how they can be prepared to tackle the challenges which will come with the 4IR to the rural communities. "The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics comes in handy for learners and public to understand the importance of Fourth Industrial Revolution."

"It is our belief that to tackle the societal problems in South Africa, we need to cultivate a culture of social responsibility in the country and as the Vuwani Science Resource Centre together with BYLI and Tshamukwai Na Musuku trust we hope to start with learners and public. Our collaboration also offers Science and Innovation challenge competitions that encourage the high school learners to identify problems within their communities and find scientific solutions. The goal is to foster innovation and encourage young people to think creatively and innovatively in a competitive space," said Dr Maluta.

Mentors and tutors engaged learners with discussion on economic issues facing the developing countries as the world moves towards the 4IR. Dr Maluta said the world and especially developing countries' economies face a myriad of challenges and one of such challenges, is the digital divide, which leads to an imbalance in terms of opportunities. "To try to address this, we need to move collectively with young people who are the leaders of tomorrow. The workshop has given learners opportunities that inspire them for innovation, problem solving, and critical thinking. This was a well deserving opportunity to learners from rural areas."



Dr Eric Maluta posing for a photo with student tutors and mentors for the Rural Innovation Camp. Dr. Eric Maluta (Vuwani Science Resource Centre), Mr. Zwivhuya Netshivhambe (University of Venda), Miss. Muano Mukwevh, (WITS), Mr. Tsedzuliso Netshimbupfe (Tshamukwai Na Musuku Trust), Mr. Matodzi Malokisa (Bright young leaders Initiative) Mr. Bongani Dlamini (University of Johannesburg), Mr. Ivine Makani (University of Johannesburg), and Mr. Zwivhuya Mulaudzi (University of Venda)



Learners attending one of the classes during the Camp



Learners participating in one of the outdoor activities



Learners discussing in a group preparing for the final day Camp presentations

French South African Agricultural Institute (F'SAGRI) launches its first Innovation Prize at UNIVEN



UNASA-UNIVEN Chapter to host Limpopo SASMUN 2020 and LIMUN 2021 Conferences



Harrison Ntjiso Nalovu (UNASA-UNIVEN Chapter Deputy-Chairperson), Lindokuhle Pertunia Zwane (UNASA-UNIVEN Chapter Chairperson) and Mulisa Mposhomali (UNASA National Deputy Secretary-General)

The United Nations Association of South Africa - University of Venda (UNASAUNIVEN) Chapter founded in 2012 by Miss Thama Alicia Ramulongo. UNASAUNIVEN chapter will in two years' time while embarking on its ninth year of existence host the 2nd Limpopo Model United Nations Conference in 2021. At the recent Annual General Meeting held at the University of Pretoria.

The importance of Model United Nations conferences is that they contribute to tourism in the form of seasonal MUNer's

who travel from all corners of the world to attend and participate in such conferences. The conference also helps to promote the programmes and initiatives of the United Nations hence there is a high possibility that this conference will attract international delegates due to its geographical location.

UNASA will use this conference to select representatives to represent South Africa in World Federation of United Nations World International High Schools and Universities Model United Nations Conferences in 2021.

The French South African Agricultural Institute (F'SAGRI) launched its first Innovation Prize that took place at the University of Venda (UNIVEN) on Thursday, 07 November 2019. The Innovation Prize is intended for young students and researchers from the three universities or start-up companies on condition that the laureates' start-ups engage in a partnership with F'SAGRI universities by taking interns, proposing study cases, participating in workshops.

F'SAGRI Innovation Prize Contest event was celebrated at UNIVEN. This event was graced by the presence of the French Ambassador to South Africa and Lesotho, senior representatives of DAFF, DSI, ARC, Danone, NRF, the Universities of Venda, Limpopo, and Fort Hare and Agreenium testified to the importance of the initiative. Mr Ephraim Kgatla, a Food Science Lecturer in the Department of Food Science and Technology, School of Agriculture, represented UNIVEN. The Innovation Award and the Agricultural Merit Awards Ceremony were very moving. They underlined the commitment, energy and passion of each recipient. Mr Ephraim Kgatla, has produced an innovative energy drink, shown below. According to him, these Energy drinks provide an extra boost in energy, they promote wakefulness, maintain alertness, provide cognitive and mood enhancement.



Prickly pear energy drink Moringa energy drink

This invention pertains to an improved energy drink that provides energy to the body by refueling the body's fuel tank, made with innovative energy boosting ingredients (prickly pear and moringa). The added functionality includes more phytochemical and antioxidants from prickly pear and moringa and matcha, low sugar, no sugar added, no aspartame, low caffeine, no Guarana, Ginko and no herbal supplements.

Energy is provided by protein rather than sugar, new flavours (prickly pear and moringa flavour). No added artificial colouring and flavouring agents.

Energy drinks that are designed to aid human performance, provide electrolytes; vitamins; protein, minerals, essential amino acids and energy. Mr Kgatla is one of the candidates who won the competition that is endowed with bursaries for mobility to France. According to Mr Kgatla, the laureates' best projects will be sent to France in October and November 2020 to participate in a French large food innovation exhibition, the SIAL event on 18-22 October 2020. These products will be displayed at a French event and African agricultural start-ups, the Agri Start-up Summit and its learning tour at the end of November 2020.



The French South African Agricultural Institute (F'SAGRI), created in 2015, provides for capacity building of Universities of Venda, Limpopo and Fort Hare including research institutes in the agricultural and food sectors.

It also provides for the development of innovative companies and more generally a close link with companies in the agricultural and agri-food sector. To do so, F'SAGRI gathers South African as well as French institutions: Department of Science and Innovation, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Agricultural Research Council, National Research Foundation, the three Universities, Agreenium and the French Embassy.

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