



University of Venda

JULY 2015

# Nendila

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

## BANKSETA invests R68 million in capacity building

Univen, in collaboration with its key partners the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) and the BANKSETA launched a R68 million capacity building project to ensure that the university receives SAICA accreditation.

The project will run over four years.

It enables Univen to offer a four-year BCom Accounting Sciences degree in the Department of Accounting, while concurrently maintaining teaching and learning standards which are consistent with the demands of the chartered accountancy profession.

Started in January last year, the initial intake was 50 students, whose study costs are borne by the Thuthuka bursary fund. To date the number of first and second year students is 147. The University of Johannesburg serves as mentor for the programme until it is accredited.

Univen's Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Peter Mbatl, said with this qualification the university will play a significant role and contribute towards transformation by producing those world-class chartered accountants who are desperately needed in South Africa.

"This particularly applies to Limpopo and the Southern African Development Community. The university has established many partnership initiatives and programmes with government agencies and the private sector to produce skills needed for rural and regional development in Southern Africa.

"Currently there is a shortage and demand for skilled accounting professionals in all business sectors, both in the public and private sectors. The capacity building project will not only equip more students with better finance skills, but it will also assist in providing organisations with skilled and qualified leaders," he said.

SAICA's Advisory Council member and the Thuthuka Bursary Fund Chairman, Sizwe Nxasana, said through this project, 350 learners will gain



**Key roleplayers in the multi-million Rand project** - above from left, - Ms Caroline King, BANKSETA, Company Secretary; Governance, Dr Sizwe Nxasana, SAICA's Advisory Council member and Thuthuka Bursary Fund Board Chairman, Prof Peter Mbatl, Univen Vice Chancellor and Principal and Ms Chantyl Mulder, SAICA's Senior Executive for Professional Development, Transformation and Growth.

**Bottom right** - Prof Amanda Dempsey of the University of Johannesburg.

access to a high-quality undergraduate degree programme with international recognition.

"We are hoping to produce a new breed of chartered accountants who are willing to plough back in their communities to make a difference. We want to build a brand new team of responsible leaders who are successful and add value to society. The new generation of leaders should be significant rather than merely successful. They should be leaders who make a significant impact on society."

It is hoped that by 2018, Univen would have developed the necessary capacity required to seek SAICA accreditation for the new degree. Once this is achieved, the university will join other SAICA accredited institutions from historically disadvantaged universities such as the University of Limpopo and of Fort Hare. The Walter

Sisulu University and University of Zululand are undergoing similar capacity building programmes from SAICA. BANKSETA Company Secretary: Governance, Caroline King, said the project further positions the country's workforce capacity strategy with the ever-changing demands in the job market for skilled individuals.

"We are committed to the transformation of the key professions like accounting and actuarial science that support our sector. For us to reach communities such as Venda is a fulfilling exercise, as it assists us to pervasively build a case for skills development in the communities that really need empowering.

"We are honoured to have partnered and invested in the project and look forward to the project attaining its objectives and making a profound impact," she said.

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The University of Johannesburg's Prof Amanda Dempsey said the university is a critical partner and provides strategic support and guidance to Univen staff.

"Students will study towards a four-year BCom Accounting Sciences degree at Univen and their Certificate in Theory of Accounting at the University of Johannesburg." On behalf of the students, Thuthuka beneficiary second-year student, Litshani Tshiruvhela said the project touched, changed and transformed his life in so many ways.

"Being with Thuthuka has been the best academic reward that has come my way so far, both in the lecture room and off campus. Thuthuka has set aside our different backgrounds and given us the platform to academically compete as equals," he said.

## Graduate employment opportunities from Sanlam

Sanlam recently showcased career opportunities in its investment section to Univen graduates from different schools.

"The graduate recruitment programme is primarily targeting graduates from the School of Management Sciences and Mathematical and Natural Sciences", says Sanlam's Lee Anne Desai.

"Sanlam takes in honours and masters students for its programmes each year. We take in graduates from all walks of life as long as they are passionate about investment."

Ms Dama of Univen's Centre for Higher Education Teaching and Learning organised the Sanlam graduate recruitment programme.

*Career opportunities make for happy faces.*





# Go well James Smith Tshishonga

## Univen remembers a brave, intelligent and caring student

In a recent memorial service characterised by worshipping, students and staff bid farewell to Smith Tshishonga. The late Tshishonga was a Univen BCom Accounting student. He died after a short illness.

On behalf of the university management, Dr Catherine Selepe thanked the Tshishonga family for sharing their son with Univen.

"Tshishonga did not allow his disability to limit him in anyway. We are proud that he had registered

for one of the scarce skills programmes and was performing well. He was a courageous and dedicated student. Although it is difficult, remember we are with you as you cry and celebrate a life which was short but well-lived," said Selepe.

The Head of Univen's Department of Accounting, Prof Emanuel Osefuah, said the university lost a good and intelligent leader.

"I cannot feel the pain you are feeling but God knows your sorrow."

Among the speakers were the Student Representative Council President, Mpho Mutobvu, the Chairperson of the School of Management Sciences, Ntsako Magoda, Mashudu Nthulane of the Disabled Student Unit, friend Siyabonga Ramalwa and Dennis Muthambi of the South African Students Congress. All these speakers described Tshishonga as a fighter, cadre, leader, soldier, scholar, patriot and a caring person. They thanked the family for Tshishonga's good upbringing and shared their condolences with them for losing such a beautiful soul.

"We are sober but happy that he had lived well at the University of Venda where he spent most of his last moments. We thank the university management for taking care of our son all these years," said family member Alex NemaKonde.

Tshishonga was laid to rest at Veifontein outside Makhado on 25 July.



"Tshishonga was courageous and dedicated." Selepe.



Students chanting and members of the Disabled Student Unit during the memorial service.



Mpho Mutobvu, SRC President and Disabled Student Unit's Mashudu Nthulane.



Ntsako Magoda.



Dennis Muthambi.



Alex NemaKonde.

## Univen is waiting – apply NOW for 2016 admission

Applications for academic admission and hostel accommodation for the 2016 academic year is open and students who intend to enrol should do so now.

Download application forms from [www.univen.ac.za](http://www.univen.ac.za).

For enquiries please contact Mr Mpfariseni Ligudu at 015 962 8977/8882.

Applications should be directed to –

The University Registrar, University of Venda, Private Bag X5050, Thohoyandou, 0950

The closing date for applications is Wednesday, 30 September 2015.

# WITS university on campus

The management team of the University of the Witwatersrand visited Univen recently.

The delegation, led by the Vice Chancellor, Prof Adam Habib, was hosted by Univen's Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Peter Mbatlana.

Wits and Univen have a long-standing collaboration and in 2014 their vice chancellors agreed to intensify the relationship and to forge strategic partnerships.

This was formalised with a memorandum of understanding which was signed in March this year.

The recent meeting strategically reflected on the partnership.

The stakeholders agreed on thematic areas for institutional and academic collaboration - and its champions - and the implementation plan for joint activities, monitoring and reporting mechanisms.



**Cementing relationships** – Univen Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Peter Mbatlana and Wits University Vice Chancellor, Prof Adam Habib.



The members of the Wits management also had the opportunity to get to know Univen's campus.



# Univen hosts national debating championships

Univen recently celebrated with the winners of the 20th annual Southern African national universities debating championships. A well-contested championship, held on the Univen campus, was attended by 34 participating institutions and 470 members of the debating society in Southern Africa. Univen was one of the ten finalists.

The winners were the University of Cape Town, represented by Pharen Pillay and Brynde Krest and the University of Namibia, represented by Cliff Simataa and Atti Wafufya, who won English first language.

The winner of the English second language category was the Central University of Technology, Welkom.

King Mukwevho of the University of Venda was the winner of the Public Speaking Indigenous Language category, while

Phindani Mulaudzi, also from Univen, made it to the top five adjudicators, out of 119, from the Southern African Development Community region.

Guest speaker Zanele Monnakgotla of Freewi urged women to take the lead in strategic positions in the so called patriarchal society.

Jabulani “CeeJay” Mabuza of the Boston Consulting Group said it is clear that the debating society is growing.

“We thank students who commit themselves to reshape our world and to find African solutions to African problems.”

Mightie Jammie was elected as new chairperson of the organisation. The Univen debating fraternity, represented by Rofhiwa, thanked Univen’s management for its contribution in hosting the championship.



The winner of the mega price Cliff Simataa with Mightie Jamie from the University of Namibia and other winners.



New chair, Jammie congratulates the winners.



Univen’s King Mukwevho during the top ten public speaking rounds.

## Minister Muthambi addresses Vhembe communicators

“Communicators must provide the media with accurate information to ensure that journalists report stories in a balanced manner.”

This is according to Communications Minister, Faith Muthambi.

Muthambi addressed members of the media and communicators at the Vhembe District communicators’ conference at Univen’s Research Conference Centre recently.

“I am sometimes not surprised to see negative stories reported by journalists. This is due to the fact that they are not given information in time, which frustrates them, since they work with deadlines,” she said.

Univen’s Director of Communications and Marketing, Takalani Dzaga, presented a profile and the operations of Univen Radio. The university’s Department of Communications and Marketing was commended for effectively and constantly communicating with various stakeholders through its Nendila newsletter.

Univen was also encouraged to enable communities to benefit from its resources and to be a training

hub for local journalists.

Delegates were urged to make use of community radio and local newspapers, as they reach people in their own languages.



“Communicators must provide the media with accurate information” - Muthambi.

## Univen Foundation changes gear to reach targets

The Univen Foundation needs to be restructured to enhance resource mobilisation efforts.

A frank and honest introspection by the foundation resulted in the board making recommendations that will spur future intensified resource mobilisation strategies for the greater good of the university.

At a recent workshop, facilitated by the chairperson of the foundation board, Mashudu Ramano, clear strategies were spelt out that would give impetus to the foundation’s drive to increase its footprint in the competitive resource mobilisation environment.

On the cards is a restructured foundation office where regular performance management will assess performance and attainment of set targets, based on agreed to contracts.

“With the right frame of mind, vision and commitment to the cause, the foundation will lay a foundation that will be sustainable for generations to come,” said Ramano.

Keynote speaker Dr Riedwaan Kimmie, Operations Manager of the University of KwaZulu-Natal Foundation, addressed the importance of planning for sustainability.

Univen’s Vice Chancellor, Prof Peter Mbatia, spoke about the university’s third stream income, while the Director of Legal Services, Edward Lambani, tackled the legal framework of the foundation’s deed. The Director of Communications and Marketing, Takalani Dzaga, highlighted foundation’s successes and challenges.



“The foundation will lay a sustainable foundation for generations to come” - Ramano.



## Legal Ambassadors’ Scheme takes to the community

Univen’s Legal Ambassadors’ Scheme recently visited the Thengwe High School in Tshandama, to motivate matriculants. Learners requested the ambassadors to return later this year to address the rest of the school. Visits to nine other schools will follow in the second semester.

- The Univen Legal Ambassadors’ Scheme team does pro bono work. For more information and to pledge assistance, contact [dimakatsoedmond@gmail.com](mailto:dimakatsoedmond@gmail.com) or on 071 536 6802 or community engagement on [nakisani.nemadodzi@univen.ac.za](mailto:nakisani.nemadodzi@univen.ac.za).



# When the community cries, ACVoSA answers

As part of a tour to develop the rural community, Univen's Amplifying Community Voices Student Association (ACVoSA) visited the Malavuwe Resource Centre recently.

The aim was to educate children and the youth about the use of drugs, teenage pregnancy and servant leadership.

"Our university needs to be concerned with developing surrounding rural communities as part of its social responsibility," says Chairperson Mpho Mphogo.



ACVoSA members at the Malavuwe Resource Centre.

An intern from the Institute for Rural Development, Daniela Eppler of the University of Virginia in the USA was part of the ACVoSA delegation. She shared her views on the concept of servant leadership.

Children from the resource centre will visit Univen in August for reflection and will present essays about servant leadership.

At Ha-Tshikonelo, the ACVoSA delegation visited the Tshikonelo Drop-in Centre where children were also educated on the use of drugs and about servant leadership.



Daniella Eppler and Mphogo Mpho talking about servant leadership.



Univen SRC General Secretary talks to children at Malavuwe.



Children from the Tshikonelo Drop-in Centre sharing their views about drugs and servant leadership.



ACVoSA members at the Tshikonelo Drop-in Centre.

## Career expos

ACVoSA also offered career guidance in remote rural areas like the Azwifarwi Secondary School at Ha-Mphogo, the Mpfariseni Secondary School at Malamangwa and the Alfred Nngwedzeni Secondary School at Ha-Tshikonelo.

The National Student Financial Aid Scheme also participated, advising students to apply for bursaries and handing them application forms.

"We as ACVoSA believe in taking the university to its rightful owners, the grassroots community. We will continue spreading the spirit of giving back to the community," said Mphogo Mpho.

• **For more information visit the Amplifying Community Voices Students Association-ACVoSA Facebook page.**



Meeting with learners of the Alfred Nngwedzeni Secondary School



Eager learners of the Mpfariseni Secondary School.

# Univen embraces homosexuality

South Africa's constitution is the first in Africa to prohibit unfair discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation.

Constitutionally this guarantees equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people, including heterosexual men who have sex with other men and heterosexual women who have sex with other women.

Despite the progressive constitution of South Africa, negative attitudes towards the LGBTI community still exist, leaving many of them with psychological wounds and scars. This ranges from verbal, emotional and physical abuse and harassment. It also includes discrimination in housing and employment and access to quality health services, forced heterosexual relationships, corrective rape and sexual orientation conversion interventions.

LGBTI and gender non-conforming persons who are victims and those who have observed sexual orientation and gender identity-based violence, seldom find comfort in revealing their true identity to themselves and to their family and friends. This is either because of fear, as heterosexuality is seen as a normal way of living, or because their families and friends join in their stigmatisation or discrimination.

Univen's Campus Health Services has established a programme for LGBTI and heterosexual men who have sex with other men and heterosexual women who have sex with other women to address issues related to sexual diversity.

The programme creates a conducive and empowering environment for such people, provides an opportunity for the university community to discuss sexual diversity and understand the life experiences of sexual minorities and to provide targeted HIV/AIDS prevention communication.

Semakaleng Mothapo, Univen's LGBTI programme coordinator, says as a result of homophobia, LGBTI persons are more likely to commit suicide than heterosexuals.

"Be kind to LGBTI persons and straight men and

woman who have sexual relations with persons of the same sex. Show you care by getting to know your LGBTI classmates and staff. When someone tells you they are attracted to persons of the same sex, tell them they are still the same person to you as before and thank them for trusting you with such personal information.

"Don't condone jokes which make fun of sexual minorities or insults that demean and belittle them. Insults and mean jokes are not funny," says Mothapo.

*"Understand the life experiences of sexual minorities" – Mothapo.*

## This could be your organisation's message

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For more information contact  
Welheminah Mabogo on telephone  
015 962 8525, cell 072 201 3477, e-mail  
Welheminah.Mabogo@univen.ac.za



# Thumbs up for 2015 winter school



Learners came, they listened and they left informed.



## New Early Childhood Education student exchange scheme

The Department of Early Childhood Education at Univen's School of Education has established a new Early Childhood Education student exchange scheme.

The exchange is a tripartite partnership with the Catholieke University Leuven and Limburg in Belgium and the Cape Peninsula University of Technology.

In the first semester, two groups of exchange students of four students each, from the Belgian partner, visited Univen. Each group participated in teaching practice in local schools for two months.

To strengthen and further develop the student exchange, delegations from the two partners also visited the schools where the students were placed for teaching practice. These included the Mvudi

and Tshedza Primary School and the Fulufhelo Special School for the Mentally Handicapped in Thohoyandou.

It was agreed at a stakeholder workshop that the exchange students from Univen and the Cape Peninsula University of Technology should always travel to Belgium together. The Department of Early Childhood Education's best performing student,

Phineas Mutavhatsindi, delivered a motivational talk, saying that his success can be attributed to his commitment to his studies and him spending long hours in his library cubicle. He encouraged students to choose friends who support them in their studies.

"The university is a community with many extramural activities. However, it is paramount to put academic activities first."

Based on his academic merit, Mutavhatsindi has been selected as the first Early Childhood Education student to participate in the outgoing part of the student exchange. He will travel to Belgium soon.



The tripartite partnership - Univen, the Catholieke University Leuven and Limburg in Belgium and the Cape Peninsula University of Technology - in full flight.

## We would like to hear from you!

Nendila is your communications channel. Nendila editorial committee -

Mr Takalani Dzaga - Chief editor

Ms Welheminah Mabogo - Coordinator

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Office number 24, first floor Main administration building



# Transforming the heritage landscape

Noluthando G Pendu

“Government seeks urgent solutions to transform our heritage, to create space to reflect on the current state of our heritage and mechanisms towards an inclusive reflection of the country's diversity.”

So said the Deputy Director General of the Department of Arts and Culture, Mr Ndima, at a Univen dialogue – an initiative by the Minister of Arts and Culture, Nathi Mthethwa, after the mayhem caused by students at the University of Cape Town who demanded the removal of Cecil John Rhodes’ statue.

The dialogue was also attended by the Limpopo MEC of Sport, Arts and Culture, Nandi Ndalane, representatives of South African Heritage, the National Heritage Council Chief Executive Officer, Adv Sonwabile Mangcotywa, the Mayor of Thulamela, Vho Thovhele Masia and Univen staff and students.

Ndalane said that the dialogue will solve the current problems with regard to name changes, naming of statues and offensive names that remained for a long time.

“Due to frustrations, people express themselves differently, illegally or unlawfully. As leadership we need to channel that anger, frustration and excitement to benefit the transformation route.

“It is important to find a way to tell people and let them see that their differences are a point to come together, a point of unity, rather than deadly differences. We need to become inclusive in the spirit of participatory democracy.

“We need to find the current unifying symbols that bring a young population together. Change is painful and at times there will be resistance and stubbornness, but that should give us impetus to be more transforming and inclusive in the hope for a better future,” said Ndalane.

“We need to differentiate between heritage and history,” said the Chief Executive Officer of the National Heritage Council, Adv Sonwabile Mangcotywa.

“Destruction of statues is not a solution but we should rather find ways that will unify us.”

In response to the discussion, students opposed the destruction of statues.

“The statues should be kept in a place where everyone can have access and be reflective of the past. It is our history and our heritage, therefore destruction of statues is not a solution,” said the students.

# Farmer's day at Univen

More than 60 farmers attended a farmer's day at Univen's School of Agriculture recently.

Welcomed by the Head of the Department of Crop Production, Prof Ogola, delegates visited the experimental farm where they attended an information session and demonstration on how to farm cassava successfully. It included planting, management, pest and disease control, soil factors, harvesting and post harvesting techniques and storage. Information about the health benefits and the various uses of cassava formed part of the session.

Farmers were then treated to a tasting session of different dishes, made from both the cassava root and cassava leaves. This included cassava snacks, which are a healthier substitute to potato crisps because of their low glycaemic index nature (release glucose more slowly and steadily) and fried cassava.

Cassava has nearly twice the calories than that of potatoes and is very low in fats and protein. Nonetheless, it has more protein than that of other tropical food sources like yam, potato and plantains. As in other roots and tubers, cassava too is free from gluten. Gluten-free starch is used in special food preparations for celiac disease patients.

Young, tender cassava leaves are a good source of dietary proteins and vitamin K. Vitamin K plays a role in bone mass building by promoting osteotrophic activity in bones. It also has a role in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease patients by limiting neuronal damage in the brain. Cassava is a moderate source of some of the valuable B-complex group of vitamins such as folates, thiamin, pyridoxine (vitamin B-6), riboflavin and pantothenic acid.

It is also one of the chief sources of important minerals like zinc, magnesium, copper, iron and manganese for many inhabitants in the tropical belts. It has adequate amounts of potassium (271 mg per 100g or 6% of RDA).

Potassium is an important component of cell and body fluids that help regulate heart rate and blood pressure. It is therefore important for poor communities to grow this variety for its contribution to nutrition.



Cassava cultivation.



Cassava roots.



A tentative group.



**NRF funding opportunities for honours and masters students** - Univen's Research and Innovation Directorate hosted the National Research Foundation recently to provide information about available funding to honours and masters students.

The foundation's Dr Nomakwezi Mzilikazi and Ms Gugu Dube explained programmes to support masters and honours students, what the foundation expected from students when applying for funding and what information could make or break application funding.



**Univen recruits as deep as the rural Homu** - Univen, led by Mr Takalani Thabo recently visited 82 matric learners in Homu village outside Giyani, a deep rural area next to the Kruger National Park, to inform them about the academic programmes on offer at the university.

The visit was also part of the 'Apply on time' campaign to encourage grade 12 learners to apply before closing date for the 2016 academic year. Univen's closing date for 2016 applications for admission and hostel accommodation is 30 September 2015.

If you spot anything out of the ordinary on campus – contact the tip-off hotline - 0800 212 755, e-mail [univenhotline@tip-offs.com](mailto:univenhotline@tip-offs.com)



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