



# 2 613 Univen students graduate



It's graduation time!

Univen conferred eight doctoral degrees, 56 master's degrees, 219 honours degrees, 284 post-graduate diplomas, 1 950 undergraduate bachelor degrees and 98 undergraduate diplomas to 2 613 graduates at the recent graduation ceremony.

Of these graduates, 1 019 or 39 percent are male and 1 594 or 61 percent female.

The candidates were from eight schools and the qualifications were conferred at five sessions over three days at the Univen auditorium.

Two physically challenged graduates, Mosa Boshielo and Mpho Sekgweni, received a Bachelor of Arts in Development Studies and a Bachelor of Commerce in Business Information Systems respectively.

Another highlight was the 78 year-old Neluvhalani Matshikiri, graduating with a PhD in African Studies. Chikuruwo Rufaro Emily of the School of Law scooped six awards, including a Senate Gold Medallion, and she was named the best overall student at Univen for 2017. Vincent Demana, an English lecturer in the School of Human and Social Sciences, graduated with a master's degree in English, with distinction. Victor Goliada, a staff member in Committee Administration, graduated with a master's degree in Criminal Justice.

"We send you, our graduates, out into this world, and we implore you to be agents of change we so desperately need," said Univen's Deputy Vice Chancellor: Academic, Prof Jan Crafford.

"Sadly, the current generation of leaders globally seems to have failed to change the world for the better. Poverty, inequality, prejudice and intolerance, violence against women and children have not changed, and in fact, appears to be getting worse, in a world crying out for ethical and principled leadership.

"Univen's management is pleased to see more than 20 percent of past Student Representative Council leaders, are not only graduating, but are also being rewarded for academic excellence. The leadership task of the SRC is indeed also to make education fashionable and to lead by academic example.

"Do not underestimate the challenges that the graduates of today are facing when they enter the workplace under current economic conditions

and with the worsening South African economic prospects. Graduate unemployment is rife - start thinking differently about the world of work and how parents and tertiary institutions prepare students for it. Small business developments are proven ways to decrease unemployment and increase economic growth and our graduates will be challenged more and more to find ways in which an academic degree can lead to self-employment," he said.

"At the same time, Univen will be increasingly challenged to adapt not only the content of our curriculum, but also its mode of delivery, so that we prepare our students for a rapidly changing world in which our current notions of work and employment are being turned upside down.

"The knowledge-driven economy envisaged in the National Development Plan is struggling to emerge,

but our economic future is bleak if we do not embrace it and work increasingly hard to achieve it."

Applauding graduates, Crafford said South African citizens' future hope lies in their hands.

"Your achievement is remarkable and society looks up to you as the innovators, employers and leaders of the future. We are proud of you and confident that you will hold your heads high among your peers and outshine them in the workplace."

Among the dignitaries at the graduation were the Minister of Public Administration, Faith Muthambi, the Executive Mayor of the Vhembe District Municipality, Councillor Florence Radzilani, the Mayor of the Thulamela Municipality, Councillor Avhashoni Tshifhango, senior government officials and sponsors of the graduates.



Overcoming challenges - Mosa Boshielo and Mpho Sekgweni.



A high five - Prof Crafford congratulates one of the top students, Tendani Mutavhatshindi.

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# Rufaro Chikuruwo scoops all the awards

Rufaro Emily Chikuruwo is the most spoken about person on campus, for all the right reasons. She made headlines when she scooped almost all the awards in the Univen School of Law at the recent graduation ceremony, like the Senate Gold Medallion. She has been receiving awards since she started her studies at Univen. Among these are the Mathobo, Rambau and Sigogo Attorneys Award for the Best student in an LLB research project, The Booyens du Preez and Boschhoff Award for the Best student in Civil Procedure and the Timy's Cab Projects Award from Standard Bank in Limpopo for the Overall best student in the School of Law.

She also received the Advocate McCaps Motimele SC Award, the Pretoria Society of Advocates Award, the Intellicard/Boxers Stores Award for the Best LLB student, the Porche Villa Hotel and Conference Centre Award and the Convocation Exco Award for the Overall best student at the university. She also walked away with R27 000 cash.

Chikuruwo is currently studying at the School for Legal Practice in Polokwane.

Hailing from Zimbabwe, the 23-year-old started her LLB degree in 2013.

"I am delighted to receive these awards," said Rufaro.

"Perseverance is the key. Getting these awards was God's work and through my hard work, I would like to start my own law firm one day.

"Fellow students should work hard as education is the key to success and it unlocks all the closed doors. I hope that this degree will help me to get good job opportunities."

*The sky is the limit - Prof Mbatlali (left) and Prof Crafford (right) lifting the Senate Floating trophy won by Rufaro Emily Chikuruwo.*



## Neluvhalani Matshikiri Christopher graduates with a PHD at 78

Examining the migration theory of black Africans into South Africa: A decolonial Perspective, was the title of Dr Neluvhalani's doctoral thesis.

One of the aims of this study was to examine existing secondary material to determine whether there is agreement concerning the acclaimed migration of black Africans across the Limpopo River into South Africa.

His PhD was conferred during the recent Univen autumn graduation ceremony.

"The cause of the disparity among the whites and blacks in South Africa seems to have a historical origin that dates back to the epochs of colonialism and imperialism, which spanned centuries," said Neluvhalani.

"This study focused on highlighting the biased or twisted historical evidence against folklore and the ancient evidence of the existence of the Vhangona. Vhangona means people living in the land of meat, the land of plenty food where people will never be hungry, trapped in rocks, as supported by indigenous knowledge which was credited to pre-historic extinct human beings."

His study further argued that black Africans are

the autochthones of the southern part of Africa. The study concluded that there has never been any migration of black Africans into South Africa since they have always been in the country. A book 'Kha ri Vhulunge Tshivenda ('History and folklore') is being published based on some aspects of this research. He encourages people to buy it as it contains important history of the Vhavenda and other black people in the southern part of Africa.

"Hence my study was encouraged by the footprints of people and cattle on rocks that I discovered."

Neluvhalani is married to Shonisani Patricia Neluvhalani and they have five daughters and one son.

"All my children are married and we have ten grandchildren."

He encouraged students not to cease studying after obtaining their first degrees.

"An undergraduate qualification is just an entry level, not a stop sign. It should encourage you to further your studies for the betterment of your knowledge and the community in which you are residing. Education changes everything, even the background of where you are coming from."

"Passing the first degree shows that you are able and can study until PhD level and even further. People shouldn't further their studies with the aim of increasing their salaries, but to increase the knowledge that they currently have and to find solutions to the current challenges that the country is faced with."

"This joyful occasion belongs to you, our students, who are finally reaping the rewards of dedication and hard work, often undertaken under difficult personal circumstances," said Univen's Deputy Vice Chancellor: Academic, Prof Jan Crafford.

"We salute the graduates and the parents, the academics and academic leaders who carry out the core business of teaching, research and community engagement, often under challenging circumstances but always with dedication and passion."

"The 2017 autumn graduation ceremony takes place during Africa Month and during the year of Oliver Tambo, when we commemorate and honour one of the greatest political leaders in our era, not only in South Africa, but on our continent and globally. Tambo was a great leader with intellect and integrity, a qualified Mathematics and Science teacher who taught and mentored many of the struggle stalwarts like Nelson Mandela the idea that 'Education is the best way to change the world'.



*"An undergraduate qualification should encourage you to further your studies" - Dr Neluvhalani.*

"We need change more than ever before, not only in our country, but in the world at large. We now send our graduates into the world and we implore them to be agents of the change we need."

Crafford said among the 2017 autumn graduation ceremonies graduandi, there is one remarkable achiever.

"Neluvhalani graduates with his doctoral degree at the age of 78. He is the embodiment of that passion for education which inspired his generation and its heroes like Oliver Tambo."

"It is essential to ignite the same passion for education in the future leaders that Univen wishes to produce."



*"It is essential to ignite a passion for education in the future leaders that Univen wish to produce" - Prof Crafford.*



*A line of doctoral degrees.*



# Univen is creating future leaders - Nesamvuni



“Indeed, Univen is creating future leaders,” said Univen Registrar Prof Edward Nesamvuni at the recent graduation ceremonies.

“Three doctoral degrees were awarded in the School of Management Sciences - one is for a member of the Executive Committee of Convocation, another for a retired member of staff and one for a former Univen employee. Victor Goliada Ndivhuwo, a staff member in the Committee Administration Section, was awarded a master's degree.

“Tshepo Raseala, Deputy Secretary of the SRC, graduated with a BA in International Relations, with a distinction. He was the overall best student in the School of Human and Social Sciences. The Secretary General of the SRC, Sandile Bob Masango, graduated with a BA in Criminal Justice and the former SRC Secretary General and former President, Mpho Mutobvu, graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce Honours in Business Information Systems.

“The academic policy in the SRC, coupled with the student development project, is bearing fruit. We congratulate you, SRC President, Mandla Sikhwambana, for this great achievement and commitment. Management is committed to supporting you and your cabinet throughout your term of office to put the students at the centre of the university business,” said Nesamvuni.

“The greatest act of leadership is mentoring. No matter how much we may learn, achieve, accumulate, or accomplish, if it all dies with us, then we qualify to be a generational failure. It is the university's commitment to create future leaders who will sustain the democracy that our forefathers died for.

“It takes pastoral counselling and grooming for young people to grow as leaders and take responsibility in society. It takes our political leaders and traditional leaders to protect, service and guide our communities out of poverty, unemployment and intolerance. Our guardians, parents, relatives and spouses supported us throughout the journey of this enormous achievement. A strong family structure beyond the home nurtures a rounded personality that leads to success - it takes a village to raise a child.”

Univen's autumn graduation ceremonies took place during Africa month, which culminated in our Africa Day celebrations on campus on 25 and 26 May.

“A total of 247 international students link Univen to a footprint in Botswana, Ghana, Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, and beyond. About 21 international students graduated, some with masters and doctoral degrees. Our contribution to the region and continent can further be improved by financial and material support to develop a sustainable and integrated Africa.

“I congratulate the deans, all the academics and academic support staff who worked so diligently with these graduates, often in the face of enormous challenges. You ensured that they are more than ready to take their rightful places in the world. You provided the knowledge and the skills that empower them to play their part in creating a better future, not only for themselves and their families, but for their communities, their country, and the world at large.”

*The future lies ahead - Tshepo Raseala, Sandile Bob Masango and Mpho Mutobvu.*

## Vincent Demana graduates with distinction

Graduating with flying colours is not new to Ndishunwani Vincent Demana.

He received his Masters of Arts in English with distinction at the recent Univen autumn graduation ceremony.

When he graduated with his BA degree in 1996 at Univen, he received the Dr Zahida Ahmed Best Student award, the Willem Van Der Merwe trophy for English and the school medallion.

“It is a dream come true,” said Demana, an English lecturer at the School of Human and Social Sciences at Univen. He grew up in Tshireke village.

“If you are passionate in what you are doing, nothing can impede you from realising your dreams. You can work and study at the same time. Besides, my work is related to my studies.”

“There were challenges here and there, but with support from my supervisors, all challenges were turned to opportunities,” he said.

His research topic was ‘A study of the English reading comprehension strategies utilised by level-one students at the University of Venda’.

“A total of 309 respondents from various schools who were doing the English communication skills course in 2016 participated. Data was collected by means of a self-completion questionnaire of the survey of reading strategies, developed by Mokhtari and Sheorey. The researcher employed descriptive statistics to analyse the frequency use of each reading strategy using frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation and usage level. Open-ended data was summarised by using the grouping

technique,” said Demana.

“The results revealed that the respondents were to a large extent aware of what they were doing when reading. They reported utilising English reading strategies with different frequencies and with the high and moderate levels of reading strategy usage. The highest mean frequency with which the respondents used a given category of strategies when reading English academic materials was 3.98. This was derived from the category of problem-solving strategies. The categories of support reading strategies and global reading strategies were reported being used with the relative mean of 3.79 and 3.57 respectively.

“The findings can be helpful to students in increasing their awareness of reading strategies while reading, improving their understanding of the reading process. Furthermore, it enhances confidence in their own reading ability and helps teachers and lecturers to help students to become constructively responsive and thoughtful readers. This will promote their academic reading skills and ultimately enhance their academic achievement.”

Demana said students should work hard and be disciplined to succeed.

“If you want to succeed, you need to set goals. Without goals you lack focus and direction. Goal setting not only allows you to take control of your life's direction, it also provides you with a benchmark to determine whether you are actually succeeding. Associate yourself with people who will motivate you in achieving your goals.”



*Hard work pays off - Demana passes with distinction again.*

## The world today is characterised by foreign policy – Nkosi

“Who would have thought Donald Trump would be the president of the United States of America and that Britain would exit the European Union?”

Speaking at the Univen public seminar themed ‘Multilateralism and South African foreign policy’, the Chief Operations Officer of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation and the former ambassador to the European Union, Mxolisi Nkosi, said the world today is characterised by foreign policy and hard power politics.

“It is a world of uncertainties. Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa represent 40 percent of the world population. The African continent is the second fastest growing economy.

“We are living in the fourth industrial revolution - the digital revolution. Technology is used to leapfrog development. We have a duty to put research at the core of our endeavours. We want to see Univen producing knowledge and more postgraduate students. The postgraduate students should have an effect on the economy.”

Nkosi said Univen is known to have students from outside the borders of South Africa.

“It is good that we have foreign students who are studying here. It shows that we have a strong bond with foreign countries. The African countries remain at the core of our foreign policy for the betterment of the lives of all Africans. We use our foreign policy to build a resilience economy. We need more tourists to improve job creation.

“Never call someone a foreigner. South Africa belongs to all who lives in it,” he said.

Univen's former Student Representative Council President, Andisani Mathelemusa, said the seminar sheds more light on the issue of xenophobia.

“This is indeed our continent, we should love each other. The government should empower more businesspeople so that they could employ more graduates.”

“I have learnt so many useful things that could change my life as an international relations student,” said third year BA International Relations student, Ravele Khumbudzo.



*“We are living in a world of uncertainties” - Mxolisi Nkosi.*



*“This seminar enlightened us on very important issues” - Andisani Mathelemusa.*



*“A clear view of progress within African countries in the BRICS” - Ravele Khumbudzo.*



# 15 000 Learners empowered during careers exhibition

More than 15 300 learners from 180 schools in the Vhembe District benefited during the recent 2017 Univen careers exhibition.

Forty exhibitors from different institutions of higher learning provided information and guided learners to make career choices. Learners were also taught how to apply for admission for the 2018 academic year.

Educators expressed their happiness about the well-planned exhibition, giving relevant and needy information.

“Now I know that my learners will be able to apply in time,” said a grade 12 Life Sciences Educator at Madonsi High School, Malamulele East, John Makhubele.

“Gathering necessary information will also help us as it encourages learners to study hard to obtain the results that would allow them entry in their respective fields of study.”

“The exhibition gave learners a broad understanding of the application process and what programmes are available at various institutions of higher learning,” said an educator at Mbhanye Secondary School, Hlamalani Chauke.

“The most challenging and confusing feeling is coming across a learner who is not yet sure of what career paths to pursue when they come to the exhibition,” said Univen’s Assistant Schools Liaison Officer, Justice Lebopa.

“Some of the learners are still not sure what they want to do after completing their matric, while others want to enrol in programmes that do not match with the subjects they are doing in grade 12. But we try to guide them and help them to think around what they want to become and it seemed to be working out perfectly.”

“I am interested in Media Studies but I did not know the necessary requirements for the programme,” said a grade 12 learner, Election Malukele from Nghezimani High School.

“I now have valuable information that will help me when applying and I also got the application forms from different institutions.”

“I now have application forms from almost all institutions present here and I will start to apply as from today,” said a grade 12 learner from Amukelani Secondary School, Wendy Ngobese.



Eager to learn about careers - grade 12 learners scouting for careers information.



John Makhubele was happy that his grade 12 learners were encouraged to study at their level best.



Hlamalani Chauke expressed her views about a career exhibition.



Justice Lebopa and Humbulani Kwinda share information with learners.



Election Malukele benefited from the careers exhibition.



Wendy Ngobese on route to the careers stalls.

## Leave a tangible legacy during your term - SRC president

“You must leave a tangible legacy which will improve the lives of the African students,” said Univen SRC President, Mandla Shikwambana, at the recent official opening of the student parliament and presidential inauguration.

“This is the year of quality service delivery at Univen. Let us help poor black children who qualify for tertiary education to enrol in institutions of higher learning such as Univen.

“Let us donate food parcels and sanitary towels to needy fellow students. Feeding schemes should be established to feed the poorest students. Let us help each other regardless of the countries of our origin. Never divide yourselves according to tribes or ethnic groups. Protect each other on and off campus. Mingle with each other and learn from each other as Univen students.”

Shikwambana saluted the Univen vice chancellor

and principal for understanding their needs and always responding even when they ask for his attention at the eleventh hour.

“We believe you understand the language that students speak because we can even hear from the speeches that you give during Univen’s events. You utter concepts and terms that give African children access and success in institutions of higher learning.

“Management should get the right people for the right infrastructural projects, in particular, student accommodation, so that projects could be completed within the stipulated time.”

“Students have put their trust in you to ensure that they have good quality life leading to their successful completion of their programmes on time,” said Univen’s Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Peter Mbatl.



Taking the oath - SRC President, Mandla Shikwambana.

“I assure you of my support and that of my management team in pursuing a quality student life at Univen. Dispense of party affiliations and serve all students with dignity and improve the quality of students’ life, on and off campus. Be firm, fair, respectful, consultative, have integrity, develop negotiation skills and grow a thick skin as it is not easy to be a leader. More importantly, focus on your studies.

“Assist management in the process of decolonising the curriculum to make sure that Univen’s programmes are responsive to the job market. I



Making it official - Magistrate Shirley Nemutandani of the Thohoyandou Magistrate’s Court certifying the oath documents.

applaud you for protecting Univen’s infrastructure during the recent protest,” Mbatl said

Magistrate Shirley Nemutandani of the Thohoyandou Magistrate’s Court facilitated the swearing in process of members. The ceremony is a legitimate process to ensure that cabinet members uphold their oath of office as required by the statute of the university and its policies.

Univen’s Registrar, Prof Edward Nesamvuni, the Acting Director: Student Affairs, Charlie Lutando and the Head of Student Governance, Lufuno Tshikhudo, also attended.



“Be assured of the management team’s support” - Prof Peter Mbatl.



The SRC cabinet and the Univen management - Prof Mbatl, Prof Nesamvuni, Magistrate Nemutandani, Charlie Lutando and Lufuno Tshikhudo.



# NEHAWU reflects on Workers Day

Alfred Mutoti



***"Workers are free to hold gatherings to discuss issues" – Mutoti.***

Every year on 1 May, South Africa celebrates Workers' Day.

The day is also known as May Day, but most people do not know why the country is celebrating and even how to celebrate it.

In 1994, Workers' Day became an official holiday backed by the government to ensure the welfare and good working conditions of the workers in South Africa.

Originally born from the protracted struggle for workers' rights and social justice of the late 1800s, Workers' Day has been an international holiday in many countries since 1891.

The holiday serves both as a celebration of workers' rights and as a reminder of the critical role that trade unions, the Communist Party and other labour organisations played in the fight against Apartheid.

Workers' Day holds its own cultural significance, as the public holiday has come to signify not only the sacrifices made on the long road toward fair employment standards, but also the bitter battle against Apartheid in which trade and labour unions played a key role. There were a multitude of South Africans who were oppressed by Apartheid, struggled and demanded better working conditions and strived to overthrow systemic segregation.

Workers' Day celebrations generally revolve around rallies and marches held throughout the country in support of furthering the rights of workers and other groups who still face oppression. The Congress of South African Trade Unions is the country's biggest union and it holds rallies in various provinces throughout the country.

Citizens and non-citizens can attend union and pro-worker related gatherings to support the equal and fair employment opportunities in their respective countries. The government remains committed to ensuring the welfare and good conditions of service for workers.

The trade union movement played a vital role in transforming the exclusive labour legislation and contributed immensely to the political liberation of our country.

National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (NEHAWU) member, Alfred Mutoti, of Univen says as workers they feel respected to hold this day.

"We are delighted to have this day on our calendar. This shows that we are important and also recognised. Although there are other holidays declared, it's important that there is a day also declared for them so that they can rest.

"On Workers' Day, workers should gather among themselves to discuss burning issues that they encounter at workplaces. Since we attained democracy, workers are free to hold gatherings to discuss issues pertaining to them.

"Some workers still encounter dire challenges in the workplace, such as minimum salaries. We do not expect workers to face this kind of issues because we are a democratic country. Sometimes employers do not treat workers equally. There are still salary differences although they do the same work. Workers should join unions and employers should allow workers to join unions," he said.

# Univen celebrates World Hand Hygiene Day

The World Health Organisation declared 5 May as World Hand Hygiene Day. It is also known as Global hand washing day.

The 2017 'Clean your hands' campaign promotes the importance of hand hygiene in healthcare and brings people together in support of hand hygiene improvement.

According to the organisation's website, hand hygiene helps reduce many diseases that cause death worldwide.

"I encourage people to join healthcare workers in practicing good hand hygiene," says Ntswaki Shika, a master's student in Public Health in the Department of Public Health, School of Health Sciences.

"Wash your hands before and after eating, and also before and after bathroom use. Prevention is better than cure and people should take this activity

seriously. Hopefully most people globally will come together to focus on hand hygiene and infection prevention to control a continuous battle against antibiotic resistance."

The World Health Organisation says that health workers should clean their hands at the right times and stop the spread of antibiotic resistance. Hospital chief executive officers and administrators should lead a year-round infection prevention and control programme to protect patients from resistant infections.

Furthermore, policymakers should stop antibiotic resistance spread by making infection prevention and hand hygiene a national policy priority. The integrated pollution control leaders should implement all the components for infection prevention, including hand hygiene, to combat antibiotic resistance.



***Wash up - Ntswaki Shika washing hands during World Hygiene Day.***

# Another successful employee wellness day at Univen

Healthy employees are key to ensuring that an institution succeeds and productivity remains high.

Univen once again hosted its annual Employee Wellness Day, themed 'Health is your priority and prevention is better than cure', recently.

The day promotes healthy lifestyles with many organisations like medical schemes, financial institutions and the Department of Health in the Vhembe district participating.

"Univen believes wellness and health enhance employees' productivity and minimise sick leave applications," said the university's Director of Communications and Marketing, Takalani Dzaga.

"We also encourage university employees to exercise even when they are off campus."

"If you know your health status, you will be able to maintain your health," said Lawrence Machethe, on behalf of the medical companies.

"You will know how to control your cholesterol, glucose and blood pressure. Make use of the opportunity to be screened for various illnesses - this day is for you."

"It is important to have a healthy diet because it will also help you to be productive in what you do daily," said the Vhembe District Department of Health's Nutritionist, Tovhowani Netshiongolwe.

"Do not eat to fill your stomach, but to have different nutrients in your body. You should change your diet and eat starch and proteins to build healthy bodies. Eat vegetables such as carrots and butternut for good eye vision. Drink lots of water to avoid body dehydration. Water makes your skin and vessels healthy. Always eat in the morning and avoid television addiction and start exercising."

"Our lifestyle has deteriorated our health and later affects our work productivity," said Univen's Director of Human Resources, Tshililo Manenzhe.

"The university dedicated this day so that you can renew your well-being. Participate in various

activities to maintain your health. Engage in physical activities."

Gym 4U Sales Manager, Daniel Charema, said that exercise keeps the body healthy and in good shape.

"Regular exercise is good for your health. When you feel healthy inside, you also feel healthy outside. Also maintain your heart by engaging yourself in cardio-vascular activities."



***Taking to the streets - members of the university community participating in a fun walk.***



***"Renew your well-being" - Manenzhe.***



***"When you feel healthy inside, you also feel healthy outside" – Charema.***



***"Univen recognises the importance of its employees" – Dzaga.***



***If you know your health status, you will know how to maintain your health - Machethe.***



***"Do not eat to fill your stomach, but to have different nutrients in your body" - Netshiongolwe.***

***In action - members of the university community trying their skills at aerobics.***



***"This event caters for every individual's wellness needs" – Dongola.***



# Combined forces to strengthen local researchers and community health workers

Univen, VIVES University College and the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Belgium have combined forces to strengthen local researchers and community health workers.

A delegation from VIVES University College and the Institute of Tropical Medicine visited Univen recently, collaborating on the project 'Community of practice'.

The project, funded by the Belgian governmental funding agency, will strengthen the practice of local researchers and community health workers in the Vhembe District. The project is implemented by Univen's Department of Public Health in the School of Health Sciences, with the support of the Directorate International Relations. It will help prevent increasingly prevalent non-communicable diseases.

The project is implemented from 2017 until December 2018. Monthly workshops on participatory techniques will be

held to generate transferable knowledge on interventions that may impact community awareness, lifestyle habits and eventually help in the control of non-communicable diseases.

The delegation from VIVES included Dr Ellen Vandenberghe, Dr Nelle Cox and Elke Denys. The Institute of Tropical Medicine was represented by Dr Josefien van Olmen and Dr Jeroen.

A series of workshops on community of practice were conducted at Univen and in the communities. A courtesy visit was also paid to the traditional leaders of three villages, Mbahe, Nweli and Malavuvu, adopted by the Department of Public Health for community engagement activities. Staff members and students accompanied the visitors to the communities.

**Joining forces** - The Department of Public Health, VIVES and community representatives at Malavuvu village.

**Welcome to Univen** - Mbati.

## School of Management Sciences alumni elected

"Seeing a student dropping out because of fees being unaffordable worries me."

These are the words of the new chairperson of the School of Management Sciences Alumni Association, Hardin Ratshisusu.

Ratshisusu was unanimously re-elected at the recent meeting of the School of Management Sciences Alumni Association. During his previous term of office, he promoted student excellence through sponsoring the best student award in Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting and was instrumental in the expansion of a social responsibility fund.

His rise to Deputy Competition Commission Commissioner came as no surprise as he held positions at the Competition Commission at various levels, including being a Senior Merger Analyst. He was also adviser to the Deputy Commissioner and Divisional Manager in the Mergers and Acquisitions division.

"In this term, as a newly elected committee, we promise to produce tangible results."

The Dean of the School of Management Sciences, Prof Armstrong Kadyamatimba, said the school now offers a BCom Accounting Science degree which is South African Institute of Chartered Accountants-accredited.

"We accommodate 2 400 students in the school. During the recent graduation we produced 380 undergraduates, 28 honours, two masters and three PhD graduates."

The event was attended by a delegation of the School of Management Sciences, led by Prof Kadyamatimba and his Vice Dean, Tondani Nethengwe.

"Do not blame other people and companies for not coming to you to donate, you need to approach them and explain the university's goals – then you will see better rewards," said Dr Lufuno Mudzanani, a member of the Executive Committee of Convocation.

A member of the Executive Committee of Convocation, Takalani Modau, conducted the

elections. He encouraged members to plough back to the university and work hard to achieve its goals.

The President of Convocation, Levy Ndou, led the proceedings.

**A brand new exco** – from left, the President of Convocation, Levy Ndou and Takalani Modau, a member of Executive Committee of Convocation.



**"Seeing a student dropping out because of fees unaffordable worries me"** - Ratshisusu.



**Sharing the developments and challenges of the School of Management Sciences** – Kadyamatimba.



## History in the making – First graduates in Freshwater Technology

History was made at Univen when the new career-focused diploma in Freshwater Technology was conferred on the first ten graduates.

The diploma was developed as part of the university's conversion into a comprehensive university. The students graduated during the recent autumn graduation.

Univen's Department of Zoology in the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences started offering the national diploma in 2014.

"Our diploma is very useful and especially rural-based communities will benefit from graduates of this programme," said graduate Faranani Mbulaheni.

"Rivers, where most communities get water from, are not clean and that is where we would utilise our skills."

Mbulaheni is currently doing his internship.

The diploma is a three-year qualification. The theoretical content and basic practical work is presented as short courses in blocks during the academic year

to allow employed students to attend. Work-integrated learning forms part of the curriculum from the second year of study and involves work placement of the candidates.

"By training them as technical staff with a practical working knowledge of aspects such as assessment, the diploma equips students for a career in freshwater biology and freshwater resource management," said Univen's Deputy Vice Chancellor: Academic, Prof Jan Crafford.

"Modalities also exist that will allow the diploma students to continue with a BSc Biodiversity and Conservation degree should they comply with admission requirements of the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences."

To be considered for registration, candidates should be in possession of a National Senior Certificate with a minimum of 30 percent in the language of learning coupled with an achievement rating of 3 (moderate achievement, 40 to 49 percent) or better in four of the recognised 20-credit NSC subjects and a 4 in either Life Sciences/Biology, Agricultural Science or Physical Science.



**Congratulations are in order** - Prof Crafford congratulating a graduate of Freshwater Technology while Prof Nsamenang looks on.



**First graduates of Freshwater Technology.**

### We would like to hear from you!

Nendila is your communications channel. Nendila editorial committee –

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