



Graduates advised to avoid corruption of money and corruption of ethics



Univen graduandi celebrating their achievements at the university Auditorium

As every university's ritual, graduation is one of the most important occasions in the University's academic calendar where students, both undergraduate and post-graduate, receive their hard-earned degrees and diplomas.

From 14-17 May 2019, the University of Venda (Univen) hosted its annual Autumn Graduation ceremonies to culminate students for their many years of personal sacrifices and hard work that have laid the foundation for successful and inspiring careers. This Graduation ceremony which was comprised of seven sessions and spread over four days, was held at the University's Auditorium.

During this graduation ceremonies, Honorable Kgalema Motlanthe, conferred 3066 certificates, diplomas and degrees to deserving students who have achieved high levels of academic excellence in the fields of law, human and social sciences, mathematical and natural sciences, health sciences, environmental sciences, education, agriculture and management sciences. 20 doctoral degrees, 53 masters, honours 188 and 2807 bachelor's degrees, diplomas and certificates were awarded during these graduation sessions. The majority of graduates for the 2019 May graduation ceremonies were female students compared to their male counterparts. A total of 1830 female students received their degrees



Female students graduating in numbers during 2019 May graduation



Happy moments: students celebrating their achievements during graduation

Graduates advised to avoid corruption of money and corruption of ethics	1
Univen strives to produce competitive future leaders	6
Dr Bernard Nihambeleni officially hands over the adapted bus worth more than 1.9 million to Disability Unit	8
Univen graduates embrace their culture	11
Univen community told to re-channel their energy towards unifying local and foreign students and staff	12
CBM Training upskill Univen Staff on performance management system	14
Legal Aid South Africa on the recruitment drive to Univen LLB students	15
Dr Matodzi recently obtained a Doctor of Philosophy in Rural Development	15
Mr Mukheli commended for transforming the Protection Services Department at Univen	16
Researchers get the glimpse of technology transfer during intellectual property workshop	18
Our trailblazer has done it again	18
Dr Lufuno Kone obtains his second PhD	19
Students vow to no cheating during the upcoming examinations	19
Tripartite programme to boost PhD training in Global Health	20
Vhembe Alumni Chapter is ready to work tirelessly	21

Graduates advised to avoid corruption of money and corruption of ethics continued...



When delivering his congratulatory message, Chancellor of the University of Venda, Honourable Kgalema Motlanthe congratulated graduandi, academic staff, sponsors, parents of graduandi, members of various communities and admin staff for working together in making sure that the University produces better products. He continued by encouraging academic staff and students to find research topics that responds to the problems of Sothran African society because their research findings will be used to find solutions to the problems faced by the people of Southern Africa. He told graduandi that their perseverance has paid dividends and that their achievements testify that education remains the core and lead a purposeful life that is driven by values, decisions and actions informed by the scholarship of the reasoning minds. "Education remains a critical instrument and it drives the betterment of human conditions in all its forms."

Honorable Motlanthe continued to applaud the University leadership and staff for helping to shape the values of young people. He told graduandi that ahead of them lie countless challenges and opportunities that allow them to share their skills, integrity, knowledge and experience. "Contributing to the success of your community and helping others in your families and neighborhood is the most fitting way to thank your parents, families and sponsors for having sacrificed so much to get you here." He told them that this country needs graduates that embrace the ethos of collectivism, which teaches us that our shared destiny as human beings means that we have a responsibility towards improving the future for our fellow man so we can end poverty and inequality. Honourable Motlanthe advised graduandi to Make the Univen proud by being hard working, innovative, committed and ethical in their future roles in the workplace and leadership. "Be incorruptible in your ideas as well as in your conduct; equally avoiding corruption of money and corruption of ethics."



In his Welcome Address, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni said that this is the milestone event in the lives of graduating students and his maiden graduation ceremony since assuming duty as Univen Vice-Chancellor and Principal at the beginning of 2019.

Dr Nthambeleni highlighted that most graduates for this autumn graduation ceremony is comprised of female students than their male counterparts. "In total, one thousand eight hundred and thirty (1830) are female. This trend depicting higher performance by female students is not only observed at Univen but also nationally." He was pleased to announce that twenty-one (21) former and current SRC members were graduating. He further congratulated them for hard work and determination that has culminated to the significant occasion.

Dr Nthambeleni concluded his speech by thanking all parents, guardians, lecturers, university support structures as well as sponsors for their profound care and support during the graduandi's stay at the Univen.



In the fourth session on Wednesday, 15 May 2019, Dr. Aluwani Nengovhela obtained her PhD in Zoology under the joint collaboration programme between the University of Toulouse in France and the University of Venda. under the DST/ NRF South African Research Chair programme in Biodiversity Value and Change in the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve.



During these graduation ceremonies, the Mayor of Thulamela Municipality, Cllr Avhashoni Tshifhango graduated his Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting on Tuesday, 14 May 2019 during the second session. Cllr Avhashoni Tshifhango is also a member of the University of Venda Council. He encouraged young people to go to school even if they are politically active because education open doors for everything. Cllr Tshifhango said "knowledge is a powerful tool and no one can abuse you if you are knowledgeable".



L-R: Drs Valerie Linden and Sina Monika Weier

Also, in the fourth session, Univen conferred doctoral degrees to Dr. Sina Weier and Dr Valerie Linden two students from Germany who elected to do their PhD in Zoology at the University of Venda. Their studies were completed within the DST/NRF Research Chair in Biodiversity Value and Change in the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve. The two doctors were co-supervised by the Chair holder, Prof. Peter Taylor, who is Univen's highest rated NRF scientist. They were funded under the Erasmus+ programme with co-funding between the University of Gottingen in Germany and the Univen NRF Chair.



Mangwaya Langton Tapiwanashe, Overall Best student in the University posing for a photo with Univen Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor and Principal



PhD graduates dancing at the Auditorium after being capped



PhD Graduates posing for a photo



Parents of graduandi looking at their children and relatives who were dancing after being awarded with their degrees



Above: Ready to serve the nation: Students in Nursing Science taking oath during graduation



PhD graduates with the academic procession, comprising of staff and Council members posing for a photo with the Vice-Chancellor and Principal Dr Bernard Nthambeleni and Chancellor, Honorable Kgalema Mollathe and Chair of Council, Mr Serobi Maja in the middle



Above: Recipients of the awards during the 2019 May graduation ceremonies posing with the Chancellor together with the Vice Chancellor and Principal



L-R: Chairperson of Univen Council, Mr Serobi Maja, Thovhele Gole Mphaphuli, Univen Chancellor, Honorable Kgalema Motlanthe, Univen Vice Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni and Univen Deputy Chairperson of Council, Thovhele Kennedy Tshivhase



Avhasei Raphaelalani, proudly displaying her cultural attire when graduating



Above: Beautiful team that provides professional ushering during graduation ceremonies



Friends and families of graduandi watching their loved ones graduating on the screen outside the University Auditorium



Against all odds: Students living with disability graduating during 2019 May graduation



Above: Univen choir entertaining the audience

Univen strives to produce competitive future leaders

On Monday, 27 May 2019, the University of Venda (Univen) held the Official Opening of Student Parliament and Presidential Inauguration. The inauguration ceremony aims at the affirmation of the SRC President and his cabinet to the University and their faithfulness to the constitution. The SRC presidential inauguration took place just two days after South Africa's sixth democratic state President was inaugurated. The 15 Cabinet members comprises of ten males and only five females. This prestigious event was held at Kalahari Waterfront in Nandoni, Ha-Budeli.



During this important University event, as the Keynote speaker, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni told the audience that the inauguration ceremony is a very important and very big event in which all cabinet members take oaths that they will serve students' interest irrespective of situations that they come across. "We implore you to follow ethical theory of leadership. Conduct yourselves in accordance with the University rules and regulations," he told cabinet members and all parliamentarians. Dr Nthambeleni expressed that the SRC is the integral part of the University governance and said that the University Senior Management will engage with SRC members to make Univen one of the best universities in the country.

Dr Nthambeleni continued to say that the University has identified few things in order to improve from where it is currently. He said Univen should be known as a student-centered University where the focus will be on students. "We will put processes in place which will ensure that our students are well equipped before they leave so that they could be in demand in the workplace. We want to produce better graduates." He said Univen is already engaging with other companies to assist in producing better graduates and these companies will also absorb our students after completing their studies.

"This University will produce entrepreneurial products. We want our students to create their own jobs. Once you complete your degrees, you will be competing with other people from other institutions. We will also build reputation for our University. We need



SRC Cabinet members singing the national anthem before they could be inaugurated

to be known as a University that produces the best products." He told students to work together with management and staff members to achieve the intended goals. He also told the audience that the University is working on its brand. "We need to put a message out there so that when people hear the name of Univen, they associate it with a certain positive brand. He told them that the brand promise is very important. The brand promise is what the potential employers should expect from Univen graduates as products. Univen graduates should be the best products and the University brand should make them to be in demand.

"We want you to set goals for yourselves. You must leave a legacy. Set the missions and visions for yourselves." He told those who were being inaugurated to inspire confidence to their fellow students. Be good listeners because good leaders are good listeners. "In listening you can make sense from all you are hearing. Practice servant leadership, you are asked to serve students. You are here to lead and to serve other people. You don't represent yourself but represent students," he said. Dr Nthambeleni encouraged SRC cabinet members to work together as a team irrespective of political parties that they are representing. "At every graduation ceremony, we would like to see you graduating because we know that you will make an impact out there."



In his welcome address, the University Registrar, Prof Edward Nesamvuni said the 2019 Presidential Inauguration is his sixth SRC inauguration since he joined Univen. He told them to be aware that they have been in the office since last year, but this is to officiate them as student parliament. "Without any doubt, since you have been in the office, you have fought for the rights of students especially finance wise." He highlighted that the Vice-Chancellor and Principal has recently handed the adapted bus to Univen disability unit and we are very much privileged to have the working SRC who always strive to leave a mark in all they do for students.

He also advised them to prepare themselves for the upcoming examinations and told them to never be caught cheating. "Let us take this University forward and assist us in putting it on the map by not cheating during exam. Study and become the better products that will make the University proud."



Mr Floyd Gumede who is the Speaker of Parliament declared the oath taking ceremony as being constitutional.



The Oath of Office was conducted by Advocate Edward Lambani who is the Director of Legal Services. He told all parliamentarians not to waste time to deliver because this is a one-year chance. "Use every second and minute wisely because time is not on your side."



Univen strives to produce competitive future leaders continued...

In his parliamentary address, the SRC President, Mr Tsundzuka Hakamela told the audience that, last year he learned a good lesson from the former Univen SRC President Xina Mhlabane. Mr Hakamela said, even today he is still using some of the tactics that he learned from him and that works for him. He told his cabinet members to serve students wholeheartedly and with pride. "Do not occupy positions permanently because these are not permanent positions. Let us work and give other students a chance to also make a mark."

The SRC President said this year Univen has graduated more than 3000 graduates which made him feel happy especially those who served and still serving in the SRC cabinet. He applauded the new Vice-Chancellor and Principal by defining him as a very hardworking leader who strives to serve the interests of students. He told the audience that there are various projects that are still in the pipeline and these projects will surely make all students happy all the time. "We are in the process of bringing better food outlets on campus. We will also make sure that there are platforms where students can meet and engage with each other."



Mr Lufando Charlie was the programme director



SRC President, Mr Hakamela taking an Oath of Office



Vote of thanks was proposed by Ms Mashudu Mukwevho who is the Deputy Speaker of Parliament. She wished all students best of luck in their upcoming examinations.



SRC Cabinet members posing for a photo with the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni; University Registrar, Prof Edward Nesamvuni; Director of Legal Services, Advocate Edward Lambani and Mr Lufando Charlie



SRC Cabinet Members posing for a group photo after the oath taking ceremony

Dr Bernard Nthambeleni officially hands over the adapted bus worth more than 1.9 million to Disability Unit



Dr Bernard Nthambeleni officially handing over the bus keys to Dr Tshifhiwa Mbuva while three students living with disabilities look on

For the past few years, the University of Venda (Univen) Disability Unit (DU) had been trying to raise funds for purchasing the much-needed adapted bus which would enhance inclusion. The DU is proud and grateful to have the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)'s support for the purchase of the adapted bus through the Historically Disadvantaged Institutions (HDI) development grant.

On Tuesday, 21 May 2019, Univen held a hand-over ceremony of the adapted bus for students living with disabilities. This hand-over ceremony was held at the parking lot,

in front of the University's Disability Unit Offices. Univen managed to purchase a 38-Seater bus of 15 Flip down seat with 8 wheelchair stations with separate entrances. This bus has built-in technology features such as Wi-Fi and 8 x USB Chargers. This kind of built-in technology will enhance e-learning even while students are travelling to and from the University. When using this adapted bus, students will be able to communicate with their lecturers, submit assignments and check the notices online. The total cost of the bus was R 1,925,841.20 excluding branding.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni expressed that Univen is non discriminative University. He said Univen accommodates students with different kinds of challenges. He explained that Univen is one of the universities with high number of students living with disabilities. "We will continue to tackle every challenge on the way in making sure that we serve our students with pride," he said.

Dr Nthambeleni highlighted that generally in South Africa there is scarcity of transport specifically designed to service those who live with disabilities. He said the country still has numerous challenges to fix in order to prepare for those living with disabilities. "At Univen, there is a very good foundation of serving those living with disabilities and we can only improve from where we are. The infrastructure at Univen accommodates people living with disabilities and as we move forward, let us move in the direction that is very transparent and that will make sure that we accommodate those living with disabilities."

He thanked the Department of Higher Education and Training for the effort that they put in making sure that this bus is available for our students at Univen. Dr Nthambeleni concluded by thanking the team of staff members and students, including the then President of the SRC and Chairperson of Disabled Student Council, Mashudu Nthulane and Moses Sekgobane respectively who worked tirelessly to make sure that Univen gets this bus.



Dr Tshifhiwa Mbuva, Head of Disability Unit explained that, for the past 7 years, they were bubbling looking for this kind of a bus. "Today is the day to Rejoice." She told students living with disability that now they have reasons to celebrate. "This bus is designed to be used by both the young and old people. It has the capacity to accommodate people with different physical challenges because of its compatibility."



Dr Bernard Nthambeleni officially hands over the adapted bus worth more than 1.9 million to Disability Unit continued...

Dr Mbuva told the audience that the bus is not only for students living with disability but will also be used by other students if it is available for use at that time. She concluded her talk by mentioning that the bus is here because of the support and commitments from all University departments and senior management.



Chairperson of Disabled Student Council, Pensive Tshabangu who is doing his third year of Bachelor of Youth Development Studies, said he never thought this will arrive any time sooner than expected. He thanked the University and the Department of Higher Education and Training for the bus that will cater the needs of students living with disabilities.



Univen SRC President, Mr Tsundzuka Hakamela thanked his team, the Head of Disability Unit and Vice-Chancellor and Principal for their hard work in making sure that the needs of students living with disabilities are being taken care of. He advised students to take good care of the bus as it still need to be used by generations to come.



Mr Lufuno Tshikhudo, Director Student Affairs thanked the University management for showing that the University cares about its students. He thanked everyone, especially the SRC for showing good leadership with commitment. Mr Tshikhudo told the audience that the adapted bus will solve the challenges that were previously faced by students living with disabilities. He also thanked the Vice-Chancellor and Principal for his commitment and hard work. He told him to continue doing well for all students.



Prof Nancy Mutshaeni, Director CHETL welcoming the audience



Dr Takalani Dzaga, Director Communications and Marketing was the Programme Director



Mr Robert Mityeni from Transport (In the bus), demonstrating the way a disabled passenger gets airlifted in-to the bus

Dr Bernard Nthambeleni officially hands over the adapted bus worth more than 1.9 million to Disability Unit continued...



Students living with disability posing for a group photo with SRC President (in red t-shirt) and the Vice-Chancellor and Principal (Standing third from right) and other SRC and staff members



A group photo of students living with disabilities with the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, some of SRC Members and other staff members posing for a photo in front of the adapted bus



Univen graduates embrace their culture



It's often said that the contemporary generation no longer embrace their culture, but the University of Venda (Univen) graduates proved that they love their culture.

When Avhasei Messie Raphaelalani, Khethiwe Zodwa Mkhonto and Ntwanano Baloyi ascended the graduation stage with their traditional attires, during the UNIVEN 2019 autumn graduation ceremonies, they left the audience speechless.

Raphaelalani who was wearing 'Shedo' said that it was all about showcasing her love for the culture. "I love embracing my culture all the times. I wore it to motivate other African youth to be proud of their culture especially during special moments such as graduation," she said. She was graduating her Bachelor of Education in Foundation Phase.

The Bachelor of Nursing Science graduate Mkhonto said that she decided to wear Siswati attire because she grew up following and embracing her culture. "I used to go to 'Emalangenji' and I love my culture in a way that I decided to embrace it on my big day. I wanted to be unique because many graduates usually wear designed-dresses and suits," she said.

The young lady from Mpumalanga, Nkomazi Langeloo, in Bhekisisa Section said she would like to advise the graduates, especially the young generation to always think of simple things such as culture and tradition because those are the things that will give us directions on how to conduct ourselves in life. "It should not be all about wearing expensive attire but the confidence and the pride in you when wearing that attire.



Univen community told to re-channel their energy towards unifying local and foreign students and staff

"We are a University in transformation, and we have committed ourselves to strengthening our position as a locally relevant, but globally competitive institution of higher learning in which all people, irrespective of race, gender or nationality feel welcome to contribute to our success," said University Registrar, Prof Edward Nesamvuni, who was speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, members of Executive and Senior Management. Prof Nesamvuni said these words during the 2019 Africa Day celebration that was held at the University Freedom Square on Friday, 24 May 2019 under the theme "Towards durable Solutions to forced displacements."

Prof Nesamvuni continued to express that, Africans want to celebrate the idea of African togetherness and the underpinning philosophy of Ubuntu. He said these themes are of central importance to Univen. "It should be our wish that throughout the continent there should be values of democracy inculcated in every community. The spirit of tolerance, celebrating diversity in race, tribes, sexual orientation and religion." Prof Nesamvuni advised the audience to rechannel their energy towards unifying both local and foreign students and staff. He also told them to eliminate the dividing lines and celebrate unity in diversity.

As the Keynote Speaker, Rey Chikwanda Head of Field Office at UNHCR said the launch of African Union in 2002 is the testimony of unity in Africa. He commended African countries for the unity that is happening in Africa. He said Africa is a home for approximately one third of global problem of refugees. "We are glad to note that in South Africa, Univen is the first institution that contributes to helping their fellow African people. We hope there will be written research from Univen to the African Union related to the review of the launch of African Union." He summed his keynote address by advising students and staff members to remain peaceful Africans who represent a dynamic force in the international arena.

SRC President, Tsundzuka Hakamela said Univen is at the level of diversity and tolerance in terms of racism and xenophobic attacks. He said he witnessed that when he saw most students who were wearing their cultural attire during the 2019 May Graduation ceremonies. Mr Hakamela commended Univen graduates for embracing their African culture. He advised students to prepare for exams and to never cheat during the upcoming examinations.



On behalf of the Director Student Affairs, Mr Lufuno Tshikhudo, the Head of Student Housing, Mr Lutando Charlie told the audience not to discriminate people based on the colour of their skin. "Let us tolerate each other and live in peace and harmony."



The audience during the 2019 Africa Day celebration at Freedom square

Univen community told to re-channel their energy towards unifying local and foreign students and staff continued...

Dr Pertina Nyamukondiwa, a Postgraduate Fellow at Univen's Institute for Rural Development presented the launch of support for Cyclone Idai victims. She said Cyclone Idai affected Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Malawi. "More than 1000 people across those countries lost lives. Although there are other countries that are donating for the affected, there is still a need for more support hence Univen took a decision to mobilise for these donations." She told the audience that anything that they think can assist people who are affected can be donated. The closing date is 31 May 2019. She thanked those who have already donated and encouraged students and staff members to donate as well. "Let us be loving people and caring nation."

For More information about donations, please contact Dr Takalani Dzaga on 015 962 8112 / 082 745 3090 or Dr Bevley Dube for those who are based in Makhado on 015 962 8420/ 084 756 5524.



Joseph Matthieu Muka Mundadi from DRC and Zhouellar Nyasha from Zimbabwe represented Univen International Students Union (UNISU). The two students conducted the African quiz. They expressed that they are waiting to give as Univen students and encouraged other students to donate. The two students further thanked the government of South Africa for providing education and help for all Africans. "Let us all be united and conquer the challenges that we as Africans are faced with."



Vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Segun Obadire, Acting Director International Relations. He thanked all for their participation and attendance



Tshepo Raseala (right) and Thandi who were programme directors of Africa Day celebrations

CBM Training upskill Univen Staff on performance management system



The University of Venda (Univen) Organizational Development and Training office under the Department of Human Resources recently conducted a Performance Management Workshop. The workshop took place from 15 to 17 April 2019 at the University's Art Gallery.

109 staff members attended this workshop that was facilitated by Esme Van Dyk from CBM Training. CBM Training is a division of ARC skills that provide practical business training interventions that directly result in real and sustainable skills improvement and personal development, driving significantly increased employee productivity in organisations across South Africa. Each day, the workshop was attended by senior and middle managers who lead and direct the signing of performance agreement by their staff and performance assessment thereof.

The Performance Management Training workshop covered a wide scope that affects performance in the workplace including critical success factors to support the management of performance; basis of performance management; objectives of performance management; leaders' beliefs about people; key performance indicators; Performance communication and managing performance deviations.



Esme Van Dyk who facilitated the workshop



Above: group photos that were taken on different days of one day series of the workshop



Legal Aid South Africa on the recruitment drive to Univen LLB students

LLB Final year students of the University of Venda (Univen) had an opportunity to interact with representatives from Legal Aid South Africa during a discussion session held at the University Research Conference Centre on Friday, 29 March 2019. The delegation from Legal Aid SA led by Mrs Cathrine Muthivhithivi, Supervisory Legal Practitioner from Thohoyandou Office comprised of

Ms Charlotte Khosa (Supervisory Legal Practitioner from Thohoyandou Office), Mr Emmanuel Mudau (Paralegal) and Ms Priscilla Nwandule from Provincial Office, Polokwane.

The purpose of the session was about educating and advising students on what is expected from them when they join Legal Aid SA as trainees.



As part of Legal Aid SA recruitment drive, Mrs Cathrine Muthivhithivi encouraged students to apply for an experiential learning and what is on offer



Mr. Phuti Thokolo, HoD, Law Clinic from the School of Law when facilitating the session

Dr Matodzi recently obtained a Doctor of Philosophy in Rural Development



Dr Matodzi recently obtained a Doctor of Philosophy in Rural Development. The degree was conferred on Wednesday 15 May 2019 here at Univen. Please join the Library in congratulating Dr Tsedzeni Annah Matodzi on her achievement.



A very valuable informative discussion sparked a lot of interest as students kept asking questions even after the session

Mr Mukheli commended for transforming the Protection Services Department at Univen

"As I walk through the corridors, I receive a number of accolades for transforming the Protection Services Department into an efficient and effective unit within the University", these are the words by the Director of Protection Services, Mr Azwidowi Mukheli during his farewell function held on Monday, 27 May 2019 at the University's Council Chambers. Mr Mukheli is parting ways with the University at the end of May 2019.

In his response Mr Mukheli thanked his colleagues within the Department for giving him support from the first day until

his time of departure. Mukheli said "When I arrived here, I had no security experience in the tertiary education sector, but with your assistance I can proudly call myself a security expert in the tertiary education sector". Mr Mukheli also expressed special thanks to his colleagues from South African Police Service (SAPS), particularly the Public Order Policing Unit, Colonel Gloria Sikhwivhilu and Warrant Officer Alugumi Nevhungoni who played a tremendous role during his tenure at the University of Venda. "In all the occasions we had called for your support and intervention, you

responded timeously and diligently", added Mr Mukheli. He further added that stability within campus can only be achieved with the help of SAPS.

Mr Mukheli also thanked his line manager Dr Robert Martin, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Operations for trusting and believing in him. He said "I have enjoyed working with you and I will always cherish your leadership style".

When appreciating the role played by his Personal Assistant, Cindy Naledzani, Mr Mukheli said "how can I forget the way in which you have diligently managed that

office. Thank you for making me look like a very organised Director even though at times I was not".

He thanked the Senior Management Committee members for the wonderful working relationship as well as friendship that have been developed over the past four years they have worked together and known each other. He finally thanked the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni whom he worked with for only five months.



Some members of the Univen Protection Services staff pose for a photo with their outgoing Director, Mr Mukheli (middle)



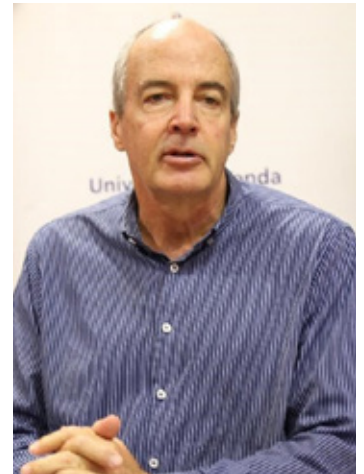
Mr Mukheli commended for transforming the Protection Services Department at Univen continued...

When delivering the farewell message, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Operations, Dr Robert Martin wished Mr Mukheli all the best in his future endeavors. As he bids farewell to Mr Mukheli, Dr Martin who worked with him for 17 months, said "It is my sincere prayer that the lord be with you

everywhere you go. I hope you will get an opportunity to make a mark where you are going. You are one person that every time there was unrest on campus, you would respond and handle things very quick". He further wished him and his family well even where he is going.



Members of senior managers, Protection Services staff and representatives from SAPS pose for a photo after the event



When welcoming the audience, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic, Prof Jan Crafford told Mr Mukheli not to stay away from the University staff for too long. He encouraged Mr Mukheli to always keep in touch because we will still learn a lot from each other



Above: Handing over of the gift by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal to Mr Mukheli while Dr Martin looks on



Mr Mukheli (middle) bidding farewell with colleagues from SAPS Colonel Sikhwihlu (left) and Warrant Officer Nevhungoni (right)



In proposing the vote of thanks was the CEO of UJGC, Dr John Mudau. He thanked Mr Mukheli for the sterling job and the kind of leadership that he has provided to Univen Protection Services. He wished him well in his future endeavors



Executive Management Committee (EMC) pose for a photo with Mr Azwidowi Mukheli (middle in a camouflage attire)



Director of Communications and Marketing, Dr Takalani Dzaga who was the programme director for this farewell function

Researchers get the glimpse of technology transfer during intellectual property workshop

Every year on April 26, the world celebrates World Intellectual Property Day to learn about the role that intellectual property (IP) rights play in encouraging innovation and creativity. The Directorate of Research and Innovation at the University of Venda (UNIVEN) celebrated this day with a workshop that was held on 29 April 2019 at the University's Research Conference Centre under the theme 'promoting research and innovation to its pole position'. The aim of this workshop was indeed to promote research and innovation as motivational speakers from different organisations were invited to motivate and educate Univen researchers.

The workshop was opened by UNIVEN OTT Coordinator, Mr. Thabo Lebelo with a welcoming and introduction of visitors. Mr. Lebelo explained the rationale for a University IP policy relates to the creation of clarity pertaining to matters of IP of the likes of IP disclosure, IP ownership, IP commercialisation and benefit sharing for IP creators/inventors. He said these matters are in connection with research and development activities undertaken using public funds within a university or Science council. Mr. Lebelo was followed by Ms. Mantwa Kgarume from National Intellectual Property Management Office (NIPMO) who took the audience through NIPMO's funds and incentive management. Ms. Kgarume was then followed by a talk by Mr. Charks Matlala from Altis Biologics. Mr. Matlala shared with the audience, a case example of the successful commercialization of a university research.

Mr. Linda Dhladhla from Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE)

talked about the role of entrepreneurship in Higher Education while Ms. Tshembani Khupane from Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) addressed matters relating to TIA funding innovation towards commercialization. Dr Nolutshando Netnou Nkoana from Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) spoke about Protection of new plant varieties and the plant breeders' rights system in South Africa. The workshop was summed up by Ms. Jelka Monyela from National Research Foundation (NRF) who spoke about NRF ratings and Mr. Gregory Khoza from CIPC with some explanations and clarities on Intellectual Property.

The workshop was also attended by representatives from Vhembe TVET College and UIGC staff members.

According to World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Director General, Francis Gurry on WIPO website, Intellectual property rights underlie and empower the financial model of all sporting events worldwide. Intellectual Property (IP) rights lie at the heart of the global sports ecosystem and all the commercial relationships that make-sports happen and that allow people to tune in to sporting action whenever, wherever, and however we want.

This year's World Intellectual Property Day campaign celebrates the positive role that intellectual property plays in encouraging sports, a wonderful range of pursuits in which human beings have always engaged and which enrich our lives in so many ways.

Our trailblazer has done it again



Dr Vhahangwele Masindi (Pr. Sci. Nat.) made it to the finalist of the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF). He is the finalist in the following categories: TW Kambule-NSTF Awards: Emerging Researchers, NSTF-Water Research Commission (WRC) Award, and Innovation Awards: Corporate Organization. The 21st annual Awards Gala Dinner is scheduled for 27 June 2019 in Gauteng.

He studied his Bachelor degree in Environmental Management, MSc in Environmental Management, and a PhD in Environmental Sciences at the University of Venda.

He is currently working as a Research Scientist for Magalies Water (MW), Part-time lecturer at University of Venda (UNIVEN), Research fellow at the University of South Africa (UNISA). Previously, he was working as a Principal Researcher for the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). His project on valorization of acid mine drainage (AMD) via the reclamation of drinking water and the synthesis of valuable minerals such as goethite, hematite, magnetite, gypsum and limestone led to his nomination as a finalist. This project culminated to numerous

papers in prestigious, reputable, DHET accredited, and high impact factor journals such as Desalination, Cleaner Production, Environmental Chemical Engineering, and Water Industry and Resource amongst others. Dr Masindi said "this is a futuristic approach toward a circular economy phenomena and the beneficiation of waste minerals to offset environmental footprints". Furthermore, he highlighted that this technology will reclaim drinking water that meets the SANS 241 specification and endeavors to curtail the challenges of water crisis. To give an approximate estimate, this technology can reclaim 20000 LPD of drinking water from AMD. Government departments, entities, mines and other private institutions perceive this groundbreaking innovation as a future towards availing drinking water that is suitable for human consumption and other living organisms. This technology was co-patented by CSIR/UNIVEN in the United States, Australia and other countries via PCT patents.

The University of Venda would like to congratulate Dr Masindi in this outstanding achievement. This is a graduate who was utterly groomed by UNIVEN system.



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

Researchers get the glimpse of technology transfer during intellectual property workshop continued...



Workshop facilitators with Dr Nkosinathi Sotshangane (far left) and Mr. Thabo Lebelo and with them in the front row are Mr. Charks Matlala (Altisbiologics), Mr. Linda Dhladhla (EDHE), Ms. Tshembani Khupane (TIA), Mrs. Naomi Aphane (NIMPO), Dr. Noluthando Nelhou-Nkoana (Daff), Mrs. Mantwa Kgarume (NIMPO), Mr. Gregory Khoza (CIPC) and in the back row from right to left are Mr. Solly Khoza (CIPC), Mr. Thihangwi Mudzanani (DST) and Ms. Khavhatondwi Nelshiheni (PhD candidate-UNIVEN)

Dr Lufuno Kone obtains his second PhD



Please note that Dr Lufuno Kone, Manager in the Department of Communications and Marketing has fulfilled the requirements of his second PhD in Public Administration with Fort Hare University. The degree was conferred to Dr Kone on 17 May 2019 at Fort Hare University.

Let's congratulate Dr Kone on his achievement.

Students vow to no cheating during the upcoming examinations

On Thursday, 23 May 2019, The University of Venda held a University (Univen) prayer service to pray for the upcoming examinations. The Examinations prayer service was held at the University's Auditorium under the theme 'No cheating and exam readiness'.



In his message of support, Senior Academic Developer from the Academic Development Unit of the Centre for Higher Education, Teaching and Learning (CHETL), Dr Fhatuwani Ravhuhali told the audience to always be ready for anything. He told them that CHETL offices are always open to assist students where possible even during these upcoming examinations. Dr Ravhuhali discouraged students from cheating during the examinations because if they are caught cheating, they will face serious charges that might even jeopardize their careers.

He advised them to give themselves enough time to study; to make sure that they study at a correct pace and he even told them to draft a study timetable. "Practice on all previous question papers but never try to spot questions, check the styles of and type of questions to expect not which questions to expect." Dr Ravhuhali continued to tell students to form study groups and to take regular breaks while they are studying. "Do not try to finish the whole scope at the same time. Time management is very important when you study for examinations".

Students vow to no cheating continued...

"Do not eat things that you are not used to because that can disturb you on the day of your exam or while you are still studying. Drink plenty of water and avoid drinking energy drinks as a source of your strength because energy drinks are not good for your health," he said.



Minister of Education, Mr Ronewa Mukwevho told students that his office will give students pens, pencils and rulers during the upcoming examinations. He encouraged students to prepare themselves for the upcoming exam.



When welcoming the guests, Mr Lutando Charlie told students to be like Jesus and prepare themselves for these upcoming examinations. He further told students to rely on the source of their strength, the Creator. Mr Charlie said, "talk to your God, ask him to give you a desired strength to prepare for these upcoming examinations." Mr Charlie wished them well in the upcoming examinations and advised students to take necessary breaks while they prepare for the examinations.



Pastor/Dr Simon Mavhungu who is the founder of Everlasting Life Christian Assembly discouraged students from using dagga or any form of drugs which are believed to assist students or give them strength when they are preparing for examinations. He said even if people believe in those drugs, use of drugs will catch up with them at a later stage in life. Pastor Mavhungu prayed for students and told them to always put their trust in their God. He concluded his sermon by wishing them well in the upcoming examinations.



Worship team singing during exam prayer service

Tripartite programme to boost PhD training in Global Health

The University of Venda (Univen), University of the Free State (UFS), and the University of Virginia (UVA) in the United States have partnered to advance the training of South African academics in global health, through a University Staff Development Programme (USDP) award within the auspices of the United States-South Africa Higher Education Network. Global health refers to research, study, or practice aimed at improving and achieving equity in health for all, worldwide.

This came after the Department of Higher Education and Training established the University Staff Development Programme (USDP) with the aim of enhancing the doctoral pipeline and strengthening the relationship between higher education institutions of South Africa and the United States.

The current Univen-UFS-UVA training initiative is intended to mentor, over a period of three years, faculty for leadership in global health research. The cohort of fellows comprises five academics from Univen and five from UFS, selected through a screening and interview process. The training cohort comprises individuals from different academic disciplines such as microbiology, medicine, nursing, public health, nutrition, and food technology.

Fellows will have measured support in research operational cost and a supervisory team. Mentoring forums available to the fellows include specialized and targeted hands-on workshops on scientific writing, ethical and responsible conduct of research, and data quality, integrity and management.



Programme Steering Committee members with Univen fellows in March 2019 at Univen. Front row, from left to right: Mr. Cornelius Hagenmeier: Director of Internationalisation, UFS; Mr. Mpho Magwalivha: PhD candidate, Univen; Professor Natasha Potgieter: Dean, School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences, Univen; Ms. Tirhani Masia: PhD candidate, Univen; Professor Corli Witthuhn: Vice-Rector: Research, UFS; Professor Gert van Zyl: Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, UFS. Back row from the left to right: Professor Pascal Bessong: Director, HIV/AIDS & Global Health Research Programme, Univen; Mr Emanuel Mzwakhe Nyathi: PhD candidate, Univen; Ms. Netshiheni Rinah: PhD candidate, Univen; Ms. Julia Mafumo: PhD candidate, Univen.

This Univen-UFS-UVA initiative is coordinated by Professor Pascal Bessong, for Univen (bessong@univen.ac.za), Professor Gert Van Zyl (vanzylgj@ufs.ac.za) and Mr. Cornelius Hagenmeier (HagenmeierCCA@ufs.ac.za) for UFS, and Professor Rebecca Dillingham (rd8v@virginia.edu) for UVA.

Vhembe Alumni Chapter is ready to work tirelessly

On Saturday, 04 May 2019, the University of Venda (Univen) launched Vhembe Alumni Chapter under the theme 'positioning Univen for impact'. The launch of this chapter was held at the University's Senate chambers.



Director of Communications and Marketing, Dr Takalani Dzaga, spoke on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni who apologized for not being part of the launch due to prior commitments. "The Vice-Chancellor and Principal is fully behind the establishment of this structure as one of its core tasks is to support the mission, vision and the overall strategic direction of the institution", said Dr Dzaga.

In his vote of thanks message, Dr Dzaga appreciated the good turnout, enthusiasm and the robust discussions. He encouraged the newly elected committee to work together with the University management and staff in order to position UNIVEN for impact.

The committee is comprised of Mr Lavhelesani Mabade as the Chairperson, Mr Ndivho Pandelani as the Deputy Chairperson, Ms Mashudu Nthulane as the Secretary, Mr Bernard Rudzani Mamphweli as the Deputy Secretary, Ms Dimakatso Ngobeni as the Treasurer, Tendani Nemakhavhani as Head of Research, Thakhani

Khethani as Head of Events, Rejoyce Madzivhandila as Head of Membership, Martha Matlatle as Head of Fundraising, Kulani Mlambo as Head of Special Projects and Mpho Mutobvu as Head of Communications.



Mr. Khathutshelo Razwiedani coordinated the elections and the launch of the Chapter

In his welcoming remarks as the programme director, President of Convocation, Mr Levy Ndou gave an overview of existing Alumni chapters in Limpopo, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Zimbabwe. He expressed pride and satisfaction to be part of the launch of Vhembe Chapter as it was long overdue and has been one of his priorities in his term of office.



L-R: Mr. Levy Ndou congratulates the newly elected Chairperson, Mr Lavhelesani Mabade



L-R: Mr. Bernard Rudzani Mamphweli (Deputy Secretary), Ms. Dimakatso Ngobeni (Treasurer), Mr. Lavhelesani Mabade (Chairperson), Ms. Mashudu Nthulane (Secretary), Mr. Ndivho Pandelani (Deputy Chairperson)



Newly elected committee posing for a photo with the President of Convocation, Mr. Levy Ndou, other Convocation EXCO members and members of staff



All-inclusive Executive Committee of Vhembe Alumni Chapter

We would like to hear from you!

Nendila is your communication channel.

Nendila editorial committee:

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

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