



University of Venda

MAY / JUNE 2015

Nendila

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

The future of this country is in your hands – Premier Univen celebrates Youth Day

"The future of this country is in your hands, so make education a priority."

This was the message from Limpopo Premier Stanley Mathabatha at Youth Day celebration at the Univen stadium on 16 June.

"The youth of today should simply understand that they are not a generation of 1976. You are a special unique generation and most of you were born after freedom and democracy. More so, you have your own set of challenges, unlike the youth of 1976. The generation of 1976 existed in its own material condition of its time and they existed under apartheid.

"It was politically correct for the youth of 1976 to burn schools then. As the generation of post liberation South Africa, your challenges are different from those of 1976. You are a very special generation because your schools are not receiving Bantu education and not forced to have Afrikaans as a medium of instruction because it was the language of the oppressor. It cannot be correct for the youth of today to start burning schools and say you are imitating the generation of 1976.

"Today's generation should protect their schools because to get economic freedom in your lifetime you will need these schools. I strongly condemn youth who are dependent on tenders in the name of economic freedom, saying that government tendering is not necessarily business but a government subsidy.

"Diligently study subjects that will be useful to the economy of the country. The youth of any country is its greatest and non-diminishing resource and



Youth – the future of this country is in your hands.

assert. A significant portion of our population is made up of young people. You are, therefore, the greatest resource because each of you carries with him or her a God-given ability and talent to contribute towards our efforts to create a better life for everyone in this country," said Mathabatha.

Youth Day celebrations started with a freedom march led by the premier, local mayors, members of the provincial legislature, the SABC and the National Youth Development Agency, from the Khwevha High School to the Univen stadium. This year's youth month was celebrated under the theme 'Youth moving South Africa forward', marking 39 years since 16 June 1976. Youth Day in South Africa is celebrated in memory of all the youngsters who lost their lives during the protest, especially the death of a 12 year old learner, Hector Peterson,

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"Make education a priority" – Premier Mathabatha.



Taki and Rofhiwa entertaining the audience.



Walking for freedom - from the Khwevha High school to the Univen stadium.



Professor taking centre stage.



Wa i tjukutja – Thuli of Muvhango and learners from Shayandima special school taken away as Professor entertains the audience.



"Ne o lekae" - only happens on Youth Day celebrations

Univen celebrates Africa Day

Univen recently celebrated Africa Day around the theme 'Integrating African higher education'.

Officially opening the celebrations, Univen's Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Peter Mbatia, said it is of the upmost importance for the university to be part of an integrated regional and continental higher education system.

"The development of a single, coordinated quality assurance system for the African continent is of paramount importance. Provision should be made for the continent-wide transferability of credits. Collaboration, particularly for capacity building in Africa, is essential. Univen has joined two collaborative capacity building initiatives - the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture and the Masters in Law programme in Human Rights and Democratisation. Univen is truly committed to transformation and diversity," said Mbatia.

The Africa Day programme included diverse performing arts presentations and a 'Let's talk' session in which participants explored the question whether Univen is a truly African university. Univen's Deputy Vice Chancellor: Academic, Prof Jan Crafford, challenged the audience, asking whether Univen had succeeded in leaving its past as an ethnically focused black university behind and managed to transform into a truly African university. The answer was overwhelmingly - yes.

Univen's artists presented a broad spectrum of performing arts - traditional and modern dances, poetry and drama. Ms Elewani Ramaite, Manager of the Univen Art Gallery, coordinated the performing art groups.



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.

For enquiries please contact Mr Mpariseni 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.



Univen occupies its rightful place in society – Chancellor

Chancellor Motlanthe confers degrees on more than 2 000 students

"Today Univen alumni occupy significant positions in both the public and private sectors," says Univen's Chancellor, Kgalema Motlanthe.

Speaking at the May graduation ceremony, Motlanthe said over the years the work of the University of Venda has contributed immensely to the socio-economic development of not only the region, but the entire nation.

"Education remains a critical tool to equip humanity with the intellectual and cognitive that enable us to understand our world and social experiences to change the human condition for the better," he said.

Motlanthe conferred qualifications on 2 064 graduates from the Schools of Agriculture, Education, Environmental Sciences, Law, Health Sciences, Management Sciences, Human and Social Sciences and Mathematical and Natural Sciences.

Of these, 60 percent were female and 40 percent were male. At PhD level, the number of female and male recipients was equal.

The Student Representative Council President, Mpho Mutobvu, led by example as he was among the students who graduated.

Mrs Selinah Mabidi, who is a messenger in the Department of Student Affairs, graduated with a bachelor's degree in Public Administration.

Six doctoral degrees were awarded during all four sessions. A Doctor of Education in Education Management was conferred to Rachel Morake, who is a senior member in the Department of International Relations and Cooperation and is currently serving as head of Mission administration at the South African Embassy in Italy.

Univen's overall best performing student award and the Senate gold medallion went to Julian Jubilant Sibanda who graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting from the School of Management Sciences. Sibanda also received a laptop from Edu-Loan.

Univen's Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Peter Mbatlana, said Univen is moving towards an e-learning environment with the purchase of blackboard an e-learning management tools, the increase in bandwidth and the roll-out of tablet personal computers to all students.

"All these interventions are improving the quality of teaching and learning, research and community engagement at the university."



Dr Rachel Morake (second from left), her supervisor Dr Nancy Mutshaeni (left) and co-supervisors, Dr Mamotena Mpeta (second from right) and Prof Phillip Kutame (right).



Well done - Univen Chancellor Kgalema Motlanthe capping students.



In line to receive the well-deserved reward.



Hard work pays off - Selinah Mabidi receiving her certificate.



Waiting to be capped - Student Representative Council President, Mpho Mutobvu with the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor.



Saluting a winner - Overall best student and senate gold medallion holder, Julian Sibanda (middle) with Chancellor Kgalema Motlanthe (left) and Vice Chancellor and Principal Prof Peter Mbatlana.



Dr Rachel Morake and some of the PhD candidates waiting for the conferment of their doctoral degrees.



Univen Chancellor Kgalema Motlanthe and some members of the Council.



Former and current Student Representative Council members with current President Mpho Mutobvu (front, second from left).



Winners of 2014 - Some of the best performing students with the recipient of the Senate medallion (second from right).



The Univen choir known for its best.

New faces at Univen

New head for Records and Archiving Management

Ms Nosipo Ngangani has been appointed as Head: Records and Archiving management at Univen.

As part of the Registrar's office, she will work closely with all departments to ensure that vital information is efficiently recorded and archived.



New Director of Student Affairs

Dr Catherine Selepe has been appointed as Univen's Director of Student Affairs. Previously from the Centre for Higher Education Teaching and Learning, she will add vast experience to student support, counselling and management.



New Head for Univen Centre for Continuing Education

Dr Thakhani Takalani has been appointed as Head: Univen Centre for Continuing Education in the Univen Income Generating Centre.

He will be responsible for managing all short courses.



New website content officer

Mr Mulalo Masisi has been appointed as the Website Content Officer in the Department of Communications and Marketing.



First-ever research indaba at Univen

Univen's first-ever research indaba brought together experienced, current, active and new researchers, academics, postgraduate students and government officials under one roof.

Themed Elucidating in Research Excellence, delegates discussed and assisted new researchers, particularly postgraduate students, to complete their studies in record time and to produce knowledge and wisdom-based quality research work.

"We cannot have a university that does not do research," said Univen's Director of Research and Innovation, Prof Georges Ekosse, in his opening remarks.

"Universities are therefore ranked according to their research output. There has been exponential growth in research outputs at Univen over the past seven years, as well as increased international research collaboration."

"Today universities are supposed to not only be the centres of education but also the engine of economic growth, icons of social justice and laboratories of new modes of teaching and learning," said Univen's Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic, Prof Jan Crafford.

"We cannot continue with the traditional modes of learning, there is a need to do research and come up with relevant teaching modes. It cannot be business as usual at universities, we have to do research which is relevant, appropriate and real, with measurable impact on the communities we serve," Crafford said.

Univen's Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Peter Mbatlali, said there has been tremendous growth in terms of research output at Univen since 2008.

"Research output per capita of academics has grown from almost zero to about 0, 5 units per capita. We are aiming at 1,5 unit per capita. Univen's leadership is passionate about creating a conducive environment for growth of research. I trust that this indaba would not just be a meeting, but should tell us about how students complete their studies in record time," said Mbatlali.

Presentations included topics like 'Developing a winning research career' by Dr Mpako of Unisa and 'Team building and team dynamics in research' by Prof Alfred Ngowi, Dean of Engineering at the Central University of Technology.

Programme directors for the event were Prof Vhonani Netshandama and Prof John Odiyo.



Univen's first-ever research indaba – truly a meeting of minds.



Welcome to the Univen research indaba - Director of Research and Innovation, Prof Georges Ekosse and Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic, Prof Jan Crafford.



Sharing their passion for research - Dr Mpako of Unisa and Prof Alfred Ngowi, Dean of Engineering at the Central University of Technology.



Teamwork leads to success.

International intern at Institute for Rural Development

A student from Baltimore, Maryland, in the United States of America, Daniela Eppler, has been appointed as an intern at the Institute for Rural Development.

Eppler has just completed a bachelor's degree in Foreign Affairs at the University of Virginia and is busy with her masters in Leadership and Public Policy at the same university. Spending time with education and healthcare-focused projects in Nepal and Gordon's Bay, South Africa, she says: "These projects played a big role in my growing interest in public policy. This is especially so in the methods through which one can solve local issues using strategies that create local leaders and develop communities."

"Throughout my stay at the University of Venda, I look forward to learning about the projects that have been developed by the Institute for Rural Development, especially how they were constructed, and what has made them successful."

"I am also excited to learn more about servant leadership and about how understandings of this concept can largely vary. Most of all, I want to use the tools that I learn from the expertise in community engagement and rural development at Univen to truly understand how to address local policy issues," she says.

"We trust that we will collectively help her realise these expectations and ensure that this internship eventually contributes to her nurturing as a people-centred professional," says Dr Josef Francis, Director of the institute.



"I want to use the tools that I learn at Univen to address local policy issues" – Eppler.

Univen hosts the most successful career exhibition

More than 15 000 learners from 167 secondary schools in the Vhembe District attended Univen's annual career exhibition recently.

Exhibitors from more than forty institutions of higher learning, some government departments and companies which offer bursaries exhibited the programmes which they offer and in particular assisted learners to make informed career choices.

Choosing a career is crucial because if you do not make the right choice, you can waste a lot of time and money, only to land up doing a job you hate. When interviewing some of the learners during the exhibition, it was clear that some of them were still unsure or undecided of what they will be doing in 2016. Exhibitors spent more than twenty minutes with each group to help them choose at least two programmes which suit their personalities, interests and abilities.

"The exhibition is an annual event, offering grade 12 learners an opportunity to get information about careers and entry requirements of institutions to further their studies," says Univen's Director of Communications and Marketing, Takalani Dzaga.

"Universities are getting full at the beginning of each year and we advise new students to apply in time to avoid the rush. We also teach them the advantages of online registration which is fast and helps them to avoid long queues that could result in stampedes. We appreciate the support and participation of various institutions who share information with learners so that they can make informed career choices and apply before the closing date."



"Univen's leadership is passionate about creating a conducive environment for growth of research" - Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Peter Mbatlali.



Talking internationalisation in Brazil

Mashau Takalani Samuel

From 25 to 29 April I attended the Brazilian Association for Internationalisation Education Conference, which took place in Brazil in the state of Mato Grosso in Cuiba.

They call the conference FAUBAI in Portuguese, the main spoken language in Brazil. The conference was attended by 600 delegates from 26 countries. I represented South Africa and Univen with two delegates from the Nelson Mandela Metro University and the North West University.

Workshops discussed, among others - strategic

partnerships with universities in the USA. Brazil has partnered with many US universities, where they have student and staff exchange programmes.

Another was internationalisation at home. I attended this workshop, it was very interesting and I contributed a lot in strengthening partnerships with other institutions from all over the world. I believe that internationalisation is a way of minimising diversity among the world's societies.

Enhancing recognition of degrees and credits between Brazil and Europe and the implications for collaboration, mobility and internationalisation was the theme of another workshop. Brazil also has

relationships with European universities. Univen is a member of Erasmus Mundus which was also discussed at a workshop session.

The conference had five parallel sessions. I chaired one of the parallel sessions which was a great and interesting experience – the first time for me at an international conference.

I also presented a paper - Overcoming Learner Diversity: A Teacher Education Perspective in South Africa - which I co-authored with Drs Mutshaeni and Maphosa. The paper has been published in the International Journal of Educational Sciences, 41(3): 395-401.

Vice Chancellor hosts social dialogue platform

Univen Transformation Charter launched

Univen – a diverse community

“Universities globally recognise transformation as an essential catalyst that brings about the changes necessary to secure a competitive advantage.”

This is according to Univen’s Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Peter Mbatlana.

Speaking at the university’s social dialogue and the launch of Univen’s Transformation Charter, Mbatlana said transformation is an imperative for every institution that wishes to remain relevant and responsive to the ever-involving demands and challenges presented to it by society.

“Today people live in an environment characterised by global challenges such as climate change, food insecurity and social challenges, including poverty and ethnic division. Our university community’s unified response to the recent challenge to social cohesion in the country by xenophobia exemplified how adaptable our university is to respond to societal challenges.

“For us at Univen, transformation must mean that we leave behind the apartheid designation as an ethnically focused black university, and transform into an academically excellent diverse community which must assume its rightful place among its South African and international peers.

“Univen wholly embraces transformation in its fullest sense that would result in 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 its success.



“Transformation must mean that we leave behind the apartheid designation as an ethnically focused black university, and transform into an academically excellent diverse community” – Mbatlana.

“Univen is pursuing excellence in our academic care project of teaching and learning, research and community engagement. We operate as a comprehensive university in line with the government’s mandate and produce a pool of graduates relevant to the socio-economic needs of the country. These graduates are thus readily employable, whilst being conscious of their larger role as responsible citizens in South Africa’s social transformation,” said Mbatlana.

Univen’s social dialogue platform rests on six transformation themes - diversity, institutional culture, people management, student centricity, core business and governance.

Professor Josef Francis, Director of the Institute for Rural Development, facilitated a discussion ‘What does it mean for Univen to be an internationally competitive, locally relevant diverse university in transformation?’

Panel members Bally Makhado, Alfred Mutoti, Jan Crafford, Annette Lansink, Tshililo Manenzhe, Josephine Mudau, Takalani Tshitangano and Able Mateta debated their individual understanding of transformation.



Univen’s performing artists, coordinated by Ms Elewani Ramaite, displayed the talent of the Univen community.



Let's clean up!

The Amplifying Community Voices Student Association recently took to the Univen campus to "Pick it up"! The cleaning campaign started at the Maungani gate and proceeded throughout the campus, up to the main gate. "We believe the cleaning campaign will send a strong message, addressing the issue of littering in the Univen community," says Ramulongo Brownlley. "The campaign promotes a healthy and good environment by

keeping our campus clean - it is our duty to keep our campus clean." "The campaign was a success," says the association's Chairperson, Mphego Mpho. "We have amplified our voices in action. We call on everyone to promote cleanliness and do away with the culture of littering at the Univen. Univen's ENACTUS was also part of the campaign."

- For more info visit the Facebook page Amplifying Community Voices Student Association-acvosa.



The great clean up.

The annual mock trial in action

Eight teams of Univen law students competed for prize money of R4 000 in this year's mock trial. Appearing in pairs, the preliminary rounds took place on campus and the semi-final and final rounds at the Sibasa Regional Court. The team of Ms Tshongwe Nomqhele and Mr David Sithole walked away with the first prize, with runners up Ms Musandiwa Fhatuwani and Mr Manana Thokozani. The best team in the preliminary rounds prize went to Mr Logan Ramatjhou and Ms Nkuna. These teams won R2 000, R1 200 and R800 respectively. The Dean of the School of Law, Annette Lansink, presented the winning teams with prizes and certificates of participation. The five other teams received certificates of

participation. The Mock Trail Club remains indebted to the Dean School of Law and Mr Lubisi, patron of the Club and Assistant Head of the Univen law clinic, for their support. "We are also grateful to all local attorneys who presided over the preliminary rounds. Their contributions were invaluable," said the Club. "We also salute Mr Mudau, Senior Magistrate and Mrs Nemunzhelele, Magistrate at the Sibasa Regional Magistrate's Court and Mr Baloyi, Acting Magistrate at the Dzanani District Magistrate's Court, not only for allowing us to use the regional court but for presiding over the semi-final and final rounds. Their feedback spurred us to invest more time in mock trials."



The best team - from left, the Dean of the School of Law, Annette Lansink hands the winning prize to Ms Tshongwe and Mr Sithole.



The Runners up - from left, the Dean of the School of Law, Annette Lansink hands Ms Musandiwa and Mr Manana their prize.



The best team in the preliminary rounds - from left, the Dean of the School of Law, Annette Lansink hands Ms Nkuna and Mr Ramatlou their prize.



Presiding of the mock trial - Mrs Nemunzhelele, Magistrate at the Sibasa Regional Court and Mr Baloyi, acting Magistrate at the Dzanani District Court.

Peer educators visit Univen pre-school

The peer education group at Univen's campus health clinic is determined to address health related issues. "Our community outreach usually targets senior school learners from rural based villages. During these outreach visits we educate learners about sexually transmitted diseases, teenage pregnancy and substance abuse. This time around we visited Univen's pre-school and our story was unique," says the Group.

"When we see children happy, we see a greater future for them. We wanted to spend a day with the kids to share health-related information in a unique and special way, considering their age and cognition level. Interaction through playing educational games with kids is particularly successful. We create background information for the kids so that they grow up with insight knowledge about their health."

"The games we played were meant to bring awareness to the kids about which parts of the body must be touched and those which must not. The purpose was to make kids aware of their private parts and to learn to withstand actions of sexual abuse. We also taught them to take care of themselves in terms of body neatness - learning responsibilities from an early age."

The visit was organised by the Univen campus health clinic who funded snacks and balloons. "The Univen pre-school teachers are really doing a good job - the kids are excelling in English, making it easy for us to communicate with them. Kids were given time to do storytelling and telling us about themselves. It really gave us hope of a better future when we hear kids dreaming."



Peer education at its best.



Learning through play - health promoters Mr Ngcobo, Mr Maja and peer educators with the Univen pre-schoolers.



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