



University of Venda

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2015

Nendila

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

Univen is now a credible brand

"Univen has developed into a credible brand."

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

Speaking to staff members at the annual university year-end function, Mbatlana said an excellent example is the fact that at the recent graduation ceremony, 17 people graduated with PhDs.

"This is certainly a milestone that cannot be ignored. I thank you for your commitment to the success of our academic projects.

"The levels of stability on campus are also something we can be proud of. Thank you to all divisions for your commitment to safety and security, including an excellent job to ensure that the CCTV cameras were effectively installed and are operational.

"Also a special word of thanks to all the service workers for ensuring that the campus is always clean." Mbatlana said the university faces a number of challenges in 2016, particularly regarding the zero percent fee increase.

"The Univen Council and management have agreed on austerity measures to be implemented next year. Communications between management, staff and students to see how we can continue operating with minimal resources available will be the order of the day. Our strategic plan for 2016 to 2020 has been approved by Council and we will diligently communicate its application to the entire university community," he said.

In total 92 staff members received long service awards in recognition of their dedication, loyalty and service to the university. 14 staff members

received 10-year long service awards, 66 received 20-year long service awards and 12 for 30 years' service. The university also bid 12 retirees farewell. They are Mrs Khaukanani, Mrs

Tshivhandekano, Mr Liphosa, Mr Mathelemusa, Mrs Madavha, Mrs Tshivhase, Mrs Manena, Mr Mulaudzi, Mrs Khorommbi, Mrs Magwabeni, Mrs Nemuhuyuni and Ms Mashimbyi.



Last dance with colleagues - Mr Khathutshelo Mathelemusa (middle) dancing with colleagues for the last time.

Read inside

Miss and Mr Univen crowned	2
Thank you from Team Nendila	2
Good bye to communications interns	2
Selection, admission and registration of students in 2016	3
Univen Strikers salvage pride in East London	3
Univen celebrates cultural diversity and internationalisation	4
Univen and University of Virginia join forces to benefit communities	5
Mukhathutshelwa Ngobeni to raise Univen flag at Wits University	5
Rembuluwani Moddy Ndou - Springbok	5
Univen leads in the field of amnesties for students living with disabilities	6
Joel Vele leaves for Mpumalanga University	6



30 years of service - front from left Vhamusanda Vho Walter Masiagwala, Ms Violet Nemavhola, Mr Rapson Netshivhadzwau and Ms Betty Mahada. Back from left Mr Tshililo Manenzhe, Dr Jannie Zaaiman, Prof Peter Mbatlana and Mr Takalani Dzaga.



Retirees - Front from left Mrs Margret Madavha, Mrs Tshinakaho Khaukanani, Ms Maria Mashimbyi, Mrs Muvhulawa Khorommbi, Mrs Sophy Magwabeni, Mrs Evelyn Tshivhase and Mrs Johannah Manena. Back from left Mr Tshililo Manenzhe, Prof Peter Mbatlana, Mr Khathutshelo Mathelemusa, Dr Jannie Zaaiman and Mr Takalani Dzaga.

Miss and Mr Univen crowned

The new Miss Univen is Precious Mutungutungu and Mr Univen is Kinglesy Chauke.

The 1st prince is Dumisani Chuma, the 1st princes Khumbudzo Kutama and the 2nd princes Ramala Thilivhali. Langanani Mbedzi was crowned Miss Personality.

The head of the MMS Company, Mr Tshifhiwa Thidiela, who hosted the crowning ceremony, handed Mr and Miss Univen 600mb tablets to use during their reign, as well as R3 000 and a trip to any Tsogo Sun destination of their choice in South Africa.

The 1st prince and other princesses received R2 000 each. Miss Univen automatically qualifies to enter Miss Mapungubwe 2016.

Thidiela said his company would organise work-shops to train students in the modelling fraternity.

"I want Miss Univen to attend meetings and most of the events with me as an Univen ambassador," said newly elected Univen Student Representative Council President, Mashudu Nthulane.

"Miss Univen should participate in student activities and enter the Miss South Africa competition, emulating an alumni of Univen, Basetsana Khumalo, who became Miss South Africa."

"The bar has been raised high and you have done us proud," said Univen's Dr Selepe.

"We plan to infuse this talent to reflect the values of the core business of the university."



"Miss Univen should be an ambassador for the university" - Nthulane.



"We will train students in the modelling fraternity" – Thidiela.



Mr and Miss Univen crowned - Kinglesy Chauke and Precious Mutungutungu.



A winning team.

Good bye to communications interns

Univen's Communications and Marketing team bid farewell to 12 interns recently.

Vaidah Netshivhuyu, Livhuwani Nemafohoni, Portia Nevhufumba, Siphive Chongo, Portia Mugwedi, Patience Maedza, Given Ntshauba, Fulufohelo Netili, Ndifelani Madinani, Thanyani Makhanthisa, Reneilwe Khoza and Comfort Mmbubana who did their internship at the department in 2014 and 2015.

It was also farewell time to Mrs Joyce Tshivhandekano of the Tea Room section who is retiring at the end of December.

It was good to work with you – from left Communications and Marketing Director, Takalani Dzaga, Siphive Chongo, Given Ntshauba, Portia Nevhufumba, Joyce Tshivhandekano, Portia Mugwedi, Vaidah Netshivhuyu, Livhuwani Nemafohoni, Fulufohelo Netili, Patience Maedza and Head of Communications and Marketing, Sharon Mashau.



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University of Venda

Selection, admission and registration of students in 2016

The process of registration will take place in these venues - SRC Lab, ICT 1&2 and Library Ground Floor Clusters.

Period	Activity
6 to 8 January 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">6 January: selection of first entering students commences.6 January: Orientation of Health students.Selection tests are administered for Psychology, BA Social Work. Scoring and selection of students are done by departments/schools from 6 to 8 January 2016.
11 to 15 January 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Communication to successful applicants regarding offers.Acceptance of offers by first-time entering students.
11 to 15 January 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Registration of first-time entering and returning students, postgraduate and undergraduate in all schools.
18 to 22 January 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Registration of first-entering students at all schools.Registration of returning students - postgraduate and undergraduate in all schools continues.
25 tot 29 January 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">25 January: Official opening of orientation.25 to 27 January: Orientation of first-entering students.28 January: Official opening of the academic year.28 January: Lectures commence.
4 to 5 February 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">4 to 5 February: Registration of masters and PhD students.
25 February 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Final date for registration of honours and masters course work.

The university does not provide temporary accommodation during the period of selection, admission registration and orientation. Prospective students should make their own accommodation arrangements outside the university.

Minimum deposit

All students without a loan/bursary will be required to pay a minimum deposit of R 4 560-00 for tuition, which is exclusive of the initial deposit for accommodation. The amount for residence should be paid by students whose application for residence has been successful.

For students whose applications for residence were successful, a minimum deposit of R 2 735-00 is required. Payment of initial residence fee before admission will not imply admission to residence. The payment can be made at any Absa branch at least three days before registration.

Banking details

Name: University of Venda
Bank: ABSA
Account number: 1000 000 589
Branch name: Makhado
Branch code: 33 414 940
Reference no: Student number.

For further information please contact -

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Univen Strikers salvage pride in East London

Augustus Dzhwema - Honours Student in Political Studies

The 2015 T20 Universities South Africa Sports Association B week cricket tournament took place in East London from 24 to 27 November 2015, despite irregularities caused by the #FEESMUSTFALL campaign.

Initially the tournament would host 12 universities from across the country with the least placed being relegated to the C week and the champions earning a ticket to participate in the A week, comprising the elite institutions in the country.

This year's edition was not highly contested, with only seven teams participating. As a result of this, the officials decided to cancel the relegation and promotion phase, but rather have a week of cricket to develop the sport more.

The seven teams were the Universities of Fort Hare, Zululand, Mangosuthu, Limpopo, Venda, the Sefako Makgato Health Sciences University and Durban University of Technology. Each team had to play six games and depending on log standings on the morning of the final day of play, teams would play for 1st, 3rd and 5th position.

The Univen Strikers began the tournament on a flying start after edging Mangosuthu by 48 runs. Earlier on, Univen had won the toss and set 126/4 in their allotted 20 overs. In response the opposition only managed 78 runs. The same day Univen played the University of Limpopo. In a sluggish game the Strikers' drop catches in the field and poor dismissals was the order of the game and a well-constructed Turfloop team set the winning momentum. Univen were sent in to bat and managed 93runs in 17.4 overs. The opposition reached the score at ease in the 16th over with three wickets in hand and Univen lost the match.

On day two Univen played only one game against Sefako Makgato Health Sciences University, who won the toss and sent in Univen to bat. In a dismal batting display Univen scored 117 all out before their 20 overs had elapsed. Scoring 119/5, Sefako Makgato won by five wickets.

On day three the University of Fort Hare played Univen in the morning and the University of Zululand in the afternoon. Both teams were unbeaten and Univen had to put up a complete different performance if they were to shock the leading tournament log leaders. However, 'lady luck' saved the morning for Univen as heavy rains made play impossible and both teams shared a point. The afternoon match against Zululand took place and Univen were sent in to bat. The Univen team was bowled out for 63 runs in

12.4 overs. Zululand came in to chase the score with confidence, but Univen displayed their best fielding performance in years and narrowly lost by one wicket with one ball to spare in the match. Zululand scored 65/9 in 19.5 overs. This was the best match of the tournament in terms of morale and display.

The match was later voted the match of the tournament. After the third day Univen had won one and lost three games.

The final day was yet again affected by heavy rains and Univen did not play its last log match against the Durban University of Technology in the morning. The afternoon, the log had Fort Hare

on top, followed by Zululand, Sefako Makgato in third spot with Durban University of Technology behind. Turfloop was in 5th position, Univen 6th and Mangosuthu was eliminated in the afternoon as they were winless.

Univen played Turfloop for the second time in the tournament for the battle of the 5th place. Univen won the toss and chose to bat, they scored 104 all out in 19.3 overs. In reply Turfloop only managed 59 runs after a good display of bowling and fielding from the Univen team. Univen played five games, won two and lost three.

The overall best player in the Univen camp was team captain Basial Chawira who scored 178 runs

in five innings and took ten wickets the entire tournament. The team coach, Mohammed Tarick, said the team had done well even though he felt they could have done more.

"The guys played well in all games, despite losing some of them. Remember our squad had six official players missing because they had exams during the week of the games. Once the facilities and infrastructure have been developed at the university, I have no doubt that we will produce one of the greatest teams ever."

For more information search 'Univen ussa' on YouTube.



Team Univen.

Univen celebrates cultural diversity and internationalisation

In an internationalisation and cultural exchange, more than 300 Univen students and staff members gathered recently to celebrate diversity.

The highlight of the evening was a 'world café', in which all participants portrayed the integration of local and international students. Discussions took place in small groups with nominated speakers conveying summaries of their ideas to the audience.

Diverse opinions on the present state of integration were voiced, and suggestions ranged from mixing students in residences to providing fora for social integration.

The Student Representative Council President, Mashudu Nthulane, the council's Minister for Communications, External Affairs and International

Relations, Tshepo Raseala and the Secretary-General of Univen's International Student Union, Wiseman Ndlovu, provided the student perspective.

Univen FM moderators KG and KC guided the audience through the evening, while artists, coordinated by Mr Humbulani Kwinda, provided inspiring entertainment.

Students prepared food representing the cuisines of their cultures, which allowed participants to undertake a culinary journey through sub-Saharan Africa.

The evening, which was jointly organised by the Student Representative Council, Univen's International Student Union and the Directorate of International Relations, was a great success and a tradition which should be presented annually.



Univen and University of Virginia join forces to benefit communities

A Univen and University of Virginia project saw people in the Vhembe District benefitting on health matters.

The Limpopo water and health project included a study on hypertension and diabetes management, including training for community health workers. Students provided booster information on simple hypertension and diabetes care, as well as nutrition tips. The impact of medical plurality on engagement in and adherence to care and treatment outcomes was also researched.

South Africa has multiple health sectors, including the bio-medical and the traditional health sector. The team held interviews with both bio-medical providers as well as traditional healers. Surveys of people living with HIV were also conducted, while patient participant surveys sought to assess the patients' emotional, social and physical well-being.

The five-year minority health and disparities international research training programme also received attention. Funded by the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities, the programme offers under-represented minority

students intensive, mentored research training and professional development experiences at several International partner sites in South Africa, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Uganda. The programme promotes interest in graduate training and professional schools and develops skills essential for future success in conducting, analysing and disseminating scientific research.

Some of the students took part in the medical pluralism project, while others took part in the diabetes project. The studies were conducted at the Donald Fraser Hospital and the Thohoyandou and Tiyani Health Centres.

Four Univen students were selected to go to the University of Virginia in the USA – two nursing undergraduates, Pumla Skolo and Zandile Sibeko, and two master's students, Nyiko Mondlane of the Nutrition Department and Meskina Makhubele of the Psychology Department.

At the University of Virginia the students presented their research findings. They were awarded for their outstanding performance and outstanding research projects.



Assisting communities – from left Zandile Sibeko, Nyiko Mondlane, Pumla Skolo, Meskina Makhubele and Dr Segun Obadire.

Mukhathutshelwa Ngobeni to raise Univen flag at Wits University



"I will raise the flag for Univen" – Ngobeni.

"It is not a loss that Mrs Ngobeni is leaving, but an indication that Univen is capable of producing managers with integrity," says Univen's Acting Director of Finance, Mr Benji Ngobeni.

Bidding Univen's Manager of the Financial Aid Office, Mrs Mukhathutshelwa Ngobeni farewell, he said it is heartening to know that Univen has the quality of managers who are attracted by institutions like the University of the Witwatersrand.

"We are proud of you, you are a dedicated and hardworking colleague who turned things around at the Financial Aid Office."

Mrs Ngobeni joined Univen in 2000.

"I will prove that indeed Univen is the best in producing managers," she said.

"As an alumna of Univen, I am capable of taking up any opportunity with no doubt in my mind of failing because Univen developed me and gave me great skills. My memories of working at Univen are the best memories of my working life."



Bidding farewell to a colleague.

Rembuluwani Moddy Ndou - Springbok



"It is your attitude-Maṅa a mutukana a si vhumatshelo have" - Ndou

I was born on 30 December 1988 at Tshikota Location and completed both my primary and secondary school education at Masedi Combined School. Although I had a desire to participate in sport, I would not be selected to represent my school.

There were then only two sporting codes, netball and soccer, which were exclusively played by hefty girls. It was when I joined the University of Venda in 2010 that I was made aware that my tall and slender physique would actually give me a competitive edge in sport.

I considered studying at Univen after I could not be admitted for medicine as my points were only 30 instead of 36. As a late applicant, my choices were limited. I got admitted in the School of Health Sciences for a BSc in Biokinetics. Although I heard about this qualification for the first time when I came to Univen, I enjoyed it so much that I graduated in record time with thirteen distinctions.

My excellent academic performance confirmed what was said by Minister Makhakesi Stofile during the 2009 Univen rugby banquet that: "You can do well in your studies if you involve yourself in sports because your body will be fit, your mind will be sharp and your soul will always be fresh".

I am currently studying towards a master's in Public Health. My area of interest is health promotion and education.

During my first year I was under the tutelage of Mr Justice Mbadamana, who was also a volunteer rugby coach. He observed my biomechanical movement as I walked and remarked that I could be a good rugby player. I was enticed when he further stated that he would make me a Springbok.

I then, without much ado, joined the Crocodiles, Univen's women's rugby club, where I became a flank. This was in view of my height of 1,9m and broad shoulders. I played three league games and was subsequently

selected to represent the Limpopo Blue Bulls Women's Rugby in the Vodacom competition.

These are the major highlights of my career in rugby -

2012: Player of the match – I was nominated player of the match during the inter-provincial Vodacom game against the Griquas, Northern Cape.

2015: SA Student Sport – My academic schedule could not permit that I participate in sport during 2013 as I had to do my internship as part of my BSc in Biokinetics. However, 2015 saw me come back to rugby with a bang. I got an opportunity to showcase my talent during the USSA Women's Rugby Seven's Tournament 2015, which was hosted by Univen.

My outstanding performance was evidenced during a match between Univen and the University of Johannesburg with a final score of 12-14 in favour of the University of Johannesburg. I was then selected to represent South African Student Sport during the inter-provincial games held in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga. I was selected for the Springbok Development Team.

The team was invited to play against the Springbok Team in Cape Town and won the first match. The aim of this match was new talent identification. I was then selected for the National Springbok Women's Rugby Team. Finally, my dream has come true!

To me, actively participating in sports improves my academic performance as it is said - mensano en corposano, a healthy mind in a healthy body. Participating actively in sport gives me the edge to excel academically. I am determined to make my institution, Univen, proud, both as a student and a sports woman. To anyone who thinks a disadvantaged background really matters in determining their altitude, I dare to say - it is rather your attitude. Maṅa a mutukana a si vhumatshelo have.



Univen leads in the field of amnesties for students living with disabilities

“Univen is leading by example in South Africa in dealing with students living with disabilities,” says Mr Selaelo Makgato, Senior Manager: Special Programmes Unit in the Office of the Premier of Limpopo. Delivering the keynote address at Univen’s recent Disability Indaba, Makgato said universities should become bearers of rights for students living with disabilities.

“Univen should make provision to have a disabled student representative in the Univen Council, the highest decision making body of the university. I salute the Student Representative Council president who is a partially sighted woman.

“Univen has done well in offering early childhood and gender transformation programmes. I encourage you to also introduce other courses which will promote and support disability programmes in government.

“I salute the university for having produced active graduates with disabilities such as Dr Luruli, Christinah Sadiki, Mike Mukoni, Prof Dan Rambani of Stats SA and many more,” he said.

“Univen is doing excellent work for its students living with all sorts of disabilities on campus,” says Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Peter Mbatlali.

“Our residences are equipped with access for students living with disabilities as a priority. We also have state-of-the-art special laboratories and equipment to help our students do well in their studies.

“I am very proud of our students with disabilities who graduated in the recent September graduation.”

Univen Student Representative Council President, Mashudu Nthulane, said the council would give its full moral and academic support to all students living with disabilities, as well as attend to all their activities. The indaba is a focal point for management and students to discuss issues which improve the lives of students living with disabilities.

“It gives us direction as to where we would want to go. We strive for our Disabled Student Unit to be an example in the province,” said Mbatlali.

The indaba was organised by the Disabled Student Unit, led by Mrs Tshifhiwa Mbuvha.



“Univen is leading by example in dealing with students living with disabilities” - Makgato.

Joel Vele leaves for Mpumalanga University

“All good things come to an end at some time and it is with regret that we say goodbye to Univen’s Director of Information Technology Services, Joel Vele, who will soon be joining the University of Mpumalanga.”

So said Univen Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Peter Mbatlali at the recent farewell for Vele.

“He played a significant role in effectively implementing various information technology services projects which led to improved availability and use of information technology on campus.

Vele joined the university in 1986, charged with the responsibility of information technology services. He has first-hand experience with regards

to information technology growth at Univen. He leaves Univen with vast experience of information technology and the University of Mpumalanga will receive someone with significant value.

He championed many successful information technology projects including the roll-out of tablets for Univen students.



Go well Joel – from left Prof Edward Nesamvuni, Dr Jannie Zaaiman, Mr Joel Vele, Prof Peter Mbatlali and Prof Jan Crafford.

Thank you from Team Nendila

As the year draws to a close, the Nendila Team would like to express sincere gratitude for the readers’ wonderful support over the past year.

The end of a year is an appropriate time to reflect on achievements, while at the same time looking forward with the intention of identifying areas that are yet to be accomplished.

Nendila is an effective and efficient way of keeping both internal and external stakeholders of the university informed about news and events. We therefore urge our internal stakeholders to encourage external stakeholders

to provide their e-mail addresses to us so that we could share our newsletters with them wherever they are.

In the coming year, Team Nendila will continue to open arms to welcome new readers, both internal and external. We look forward to providing more newsworthy information in 2016. We wish you a happy, safe and enjoyable festive season and all the very best for the new year ahead.

Takalani Dzaga
Nendila Chief Editor



Takalani Dzaga - Chief Editor



Welheminah Mabogo - Editor and Coordinator



Takalani Thabo - Contributor



Livhuwani Nemafohoni - Contributor.

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We would like to hear from you!

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