



# Univen Enactus puts South Africa on the map

The Univen Enactus team walked off with a first league, third-place trophy at the recent Enactus World Cup competition in London.

Winning the national competition in July, the team represented South Africa at the world event.

Enactus is an international nonprofit organisation with more than 70 500 students from 1 700 universities in 36 countries.

Each country showcased the entrepreneurial actions they took to raise the standard of living for others. Top global business executives served as judges, evaluating the teams' performance.

The Univen team entered a project demonstrating the production and commercialisation of ceramic water filters at Mukondeni. They demonstrated that the project had impacted on the quality of life and employment of the local community, while addressing the Millennium Development Goal dealing with clean water and sanitation.

"I always knew that our students are smart," says Prof Jan Crafford, Deputy Vice Chancellor: Academic.

"To see Univen students on the world stage holding their own against their international peers made me very proud. There is no reason why, with the right kind of support, they cannot be the South African champions again next year. Judging from the way they performed at the 2017 World Cup, winning this event is most definitely not beyond their reach."

The Enactus team believes that entrepreneurial action creates a better world for all. Guided by academic professionals and supported by business executives, Enactus students apply their talents and innovative thinking to create community development projects focused on various areas. These include entrepreneurship, food security, access to water and women's economic empowerment. According to the rules of the competition, the projects must address the United Nation's 17 Millennium Development Goals through social entrepreneurship and innovation.

The competition was preceded by a cultural evening where the different teams, dressed in traditional clothes, set up displays featuring their countries and their universities. The South African stall attracted lots of attention with visitors queueing to receive samples of typical South African products such as rooibos tea.

The team was also accompanied by faculty advisors Prof Malebogo Legodi of the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences and Prof Richard Shambare of the School of Management Sciences.

The 2017 Enactus World Cup winners were the team of Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies from Enactus India. One of the Enactus Global sponsors, the Ford Motor Company, gave the winners \$50 000 to use on their projects, splitting the money between the team and their Enactus country.



The winning team from India.



Members of the Univen Enactus team with Faculty Advisor Dr Malebogo Legodi and Prof Jan Crafford.



The South African stall with the Univen table.



The Univen team with Prof Jan Crafford, holding their first league, third-place trophy.

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# Univen decolonising education system

“Our Communities of Practice are forums comprising of specialist professionals from various disciplines pertinent to running a university,” says Univen’s Deputy Vice Chancellor: Academic, Prof Jan Crafford.

Speaking at the recent Community of Practice for the Teaching and Learning of African Languages on campus, Crafford said these groups meet regularly to share knowledge and information.

“They discuss common concerns and devise solutions to specific problems. We cannot talk about transformation or decolonisation of education without involving African languages. We need to start thinking about African children. Teaching and learning African languages is the major key to the transformation of our education system,” he said.

“Univen identified African heritage as one of its niche areas, hence we offer five African Languages - Tshivenda, Xitsonga, Northern Sotho, siSwati and isiNdebele,” said Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Peter Mbatlali. “These languages are offered from undergraduate to PhD level. Four of these

languages are previously marginalised. As a Community of Practice, we should have the long term goal of teaching African languages,” he said. “It is possible yet costly to translate terminologies from English to indigenous languages,” said CoPAL Chairperson, Prof Mbulungeni Madiba of the University of Cape Town. “To translate terminologies also need qualified professionals with enough funds. Most languages lack equivalence of exact words, therefore, language practitioners should come up with new terms.”

“When Univen started in 1982, it was created to provide education to the citizens of the Republic of Venda. But to indicate that transformation has already started, we now provide different indigenous languages,” said Prof Mokgale Makgopa, Univen’s Dean of the School of Human and Social Sciences.

“We need to make one of the Nguni languages one of the official languages of the university.”

“When you say Univen offers education in five languages, does this mean these languages serve as

a major in a three-year undergraduate qualification including specialisation at postgraduate level,” asked Mamalatswa Maruma of the University of Limpopo.



**“Univen identified African heritage as one of its niche areas” – Mbatlali.**

In his response, Makgopa said: “We are offering these languages from undergraduate to postgraduate as medium of instruction. Students are producing honours reports and mini dissertations.”



**“We cannot talk about decolonisation without involving African languages” – Crafford.**

**“Language practitioners should come up with new terms” – Madiba.**

## Univen bids farewell to Warwick team students

Univen recently said goodbye to six University of Warwick students who worked with 12 students from Univen to teach Mathematics and English at three secondary schools in Vuwani.

The schools are Ratshikwekwete, Kolokoshani and Edison Nesengani.

“I am saying I will see you soon because I believe we will meet again,” said Moses Nyimpi Sambo, the representative of team teachers from Univen.

The lead teachers and principals from the three schools expressed their appreciation for the efforts of the university in contributing to the improvement of the standard of education at secondary schools in



the Vhembe District. The students were encouraged to keep their networking contacts and stay in touch with each other even beyond the Warwick in

Africa project. Other stakeholders are the Vuwani Science Resource Centre and Univen’s Directorate of Community Engagement.

**A fond farewell - participating stakeholders at the farewell function.**

## Univen inducts new employees

Employers understand the value of settling a new employee into their role through a well-organised induction programme. An induction programme ensures that new employees are given all the support and guidance to do their job as expected.

Univen recently hosted a two-day induction and orientation session for 74 new academic and administrative employees. The majority of the new employees were young professionals. To show Univen’s commitment to empowering women, 70 percent attendees were women.

The Head of Human Resource Planning, Recruitment, Remuneration and Benefits Administration, Victor Sigama, briefed new staff members about the human resource benefits and processes. This included information about the provident fund, medical aid, the Unemployment Insurance Fund, 13th cheque and leave applications. Information about fringe benefits included remission of tuition and boarding fees, long service awards, cell phone allowance and dean’s allowances.

The Head of Organisational Development and Training, Patrick Rachidi, spoke about staff development opportunities, performance manage-

ment processes and probation management. He alluded to higher education issues such as high dropout rates, low graduation rates, low success rates, few National Research Foundation-rated researchers, poor representation of women in leadership positions including professorships, as well as inflexible policies, systems and procedures.

With regards to fears about probation, Rachidi said that while it is perceived as a punishment by many employees, probation is simply a period used by the employer to establish the suitability of an employee in terms of his/her performance. This is done through establishing expectations, accountability, support and the consequences of not meeting the set standards and execution excellence.

“A staff member on probation must receive guidance, counselling, evaluation, instruction and training from the employer. The conditions of service for staff members on probation are similar to those of other staff members in similar positions.

“Univen is investing heavily in terms of capacity development. These include projects like ‘Growing our own timber’, the development of interns and teaching assistants as well as the nGAP programme.”

The Director of the Centre for Higher Education Teaching and Learning, Prof Nancy Mutshaeni, facilitated a presentation ‘Becoming effective in the workplace’, focusing on the responsibilities of an academic. It included services such as e-Learning and developing a service guide for students, university teaching and assessment, theory and practice, student counselling and career development, services for students with disabilities and evaluation practices and personal or professional development.

Presentations were also made about auxiliary services and procedures by Ivy Mukondeleli, switchboard and telephone services including procedures by Julia Mutenda and problem based learning by Vanessa Mbhatsani.



**Some of the presenters in action.**



**A good place to work for - new academic staff members at the workshop.**

# Univen speaks in African languages during Heritage month

“We speak the indigenous African music language, we speak African art and culture. Unlike other forums where academics speak among themselves, today we are celebrating our cultural heritage together,” said Prof Geoff Mapaya during the recent Heritage Month celebration of music and culture.

“The collaboration between the indigenous music and oral history project will see John Blacking’s work on the Vhavenda culture coming home to Venda.

“Some of his efforts are already hanging on the walls of the Univen Art Gallery.”

“Our culture teaches our children how to conduct themselves,” said Vho Thovhele Gole Mphaphuli.

“It is very painful to see secondary school learners smoking, taking drugs and drinking at a very young age. These people are supposed to be the future of this country. Our hope is on them but instead they are making us to feel hopeless.”

“The Vhavenda food is not lost as they are trending on social media. Rather embrace African culture than other cultures. Most people embrace western cultures rather than our own African culture - that is what makes the western culture look superior to our own cultures.

“Include students from other cultures in the 2018 cultural celebrations day. Like any other university, Univen has students from all provinces of this country and from Africa as a whole. We should not only celebrate Venda culture but others also need to be included to be fair to the African tribe.”

“This day is one of the best days of my research data collection as a lot of data will be added to my archives, said Dr Emberly of York University.

“It pleases me to see people embracing their culture. Learn, practice and keep your cultures.”

“Cultural performances like these teach and nurture young people not to forget their culture,” said Prof Diane Thrum of the International Library of African Music at Rhodes University.

“I am happy that people are still proud of their culture and they take care of what belongs to them. Culture is something that should not be lost because if you lose it, it is like you no longer exist. Culture is a tribe’s identity - if lost, the whole nation or tribe will be lost.”

Konanani Tshidimo, a grade 11 learner of the Tshiemuemu Secondary School, said she enjoys the cultural dance.

“It educates people about real life issues and keeps them from the streets.”



**We speak African art and culture** - Prof Geoff Mapaya.



**Our cultural activities teach our children how to conduct themselves** - Vho Thovhele Gole Mphaphuli.



**When culture is lost, the tribe is lost** – Thrum.



A host of cultural activities.



The Muraga community performing the Domba traditional dance.



Feeding a baby – a mother’s love



Secondary school girls performing their cultural dance.



An unusual instrument used by primary school learners.

# Vhembe traditional health practitioners celebrate African traditional medicine week

The Univen stadium was a hive of activity during the recent celebrations of Medicine Week.

The Vhembe District Municipality in collaboration with the Vhembe District Department of Health and Univen’s Centre for Indigenous Knowledge Systems, joined forces with about 500 traditional health practitioners, celebrating with drama, song and dance.

The event highlighted the role of traditional health practitioners in unison with Univen, which offers a bachelor’s degree in Indigenous Knowledge Systems. This curriculum is implemented with the participation of traditional health practitioners.

“We appreciate your participation in our students’ research projects,” said Univen’s Prof Vhonani Netshandama.

“Gone is the era where we do not acknowledge traditional medicine. In the past we went in and out of the traditional health practitioners homestead, seeking help and knowledge. We now give due recognition to the contribution that traditional medicine plays, not only to healing and the quality of life, but to the economy and socio-economic development.”

“Well done with the good work you do and that you are refraining from violence and ritual murders,” said Univen’s Dr Tshenuwani Farisani, a respected member of the community.

“Local municipalities should provide budget for traditional health practitioners to assist in their activities,” said the Secretary of the Traditional Health Practitioners Association in Vhembe, Matamba Mamuremi.

“Traditional medicine is crucial to people, because they do not just stabilise the disease, but heal them for good.”

“Share knowledge on traditional medicine and refer other patients to fellow traditional health practitioners. Stop destroying medicinal trees or shrubs for future use. Government should provide a market business centre in town for traditional health practitioners to officially sell



Traditional medicine exhibition and traditional dances.



The Vhembe Traditional Health Practitioners team.



**Support for traditional health practitioners** - Dean Farisani and Councillor Mbedzi.



**“Government must take traditional healers seriously”** – Mamuremi.



**“Support traditional healers”** - Mbedzi and Malada.

their products. Universities are the best communication platforms to educate people about the importance of traditional health practitioners and medicine.

“Government should develop a policy to deploy traditional health practitioners to hospitals to deal with chronic diseases. Training should be provided to traditional health practitioners to test, for example, for high blood pressure and HIV,” he said.

“Government will consider a business market centre,” said Councillor Mbedzi.

“We salute Univen for initiating the bachelor’s degree in Indigenous Knowledge Systems. Traditional health practitioners, pastors and traditional leaders should work together to

deal with barbaric brutal killings of women and children for muti purposes. All traditional health practitioners should be registered. Discrimination based on beliefs faced by traditional health practitioners when advancing their culture will not be tolerated,” she said.



# Do not sell your bodies for money, material things and marks

"You are not here to become pregnant or catch diseases. Focus on what brings you here - that is to get your qualifications," said the MEC for the Limpopo Department of Health, Dr Phophi Ramathuba.

Addressing learners of the Marude Secondary School and students of Univen during the She Conquers campaign on campus, Ramathuba said students and learners do not need artificial expensive attachments such as Brazilian hair and artificial nails to look beautiful.

"You are beautiful the way you look. Stop dating older men for money and material things. Stop sleeping with your teachers and lecturers in exchange for marks, because that will not help you to get anywhere."

Ramathuba said that a teacher can give learners free marks from grade 8 until matric, but those marks will never help that learner to actually pass matric.

"You can get those qualifications but it will be difficult for you to get jobs because you would have not learnt anything during your studies. Stop selling your bodies for material things. Work hard and succeed without donating anything to anyone."

"Do not be the one who graduates and dies from HIV after graduating," said Univen SRC President, Mandla Shikwambana.

"Your families are waiting for you to start earning your own salaries and be independent. Some students and learners are the only hope back home. Your families are waiting for you to take them out of poverty. Study hard and become blessers of your own families and not blesees of older men."



**In support of a healthy lifestyle** - Univen management, delegates of the Limpopo Provincial Department of Health and HEAIDS.

"Close to 2 000 young women get infected by HIV every week," said HEAIDS Project Manager, Alex Samba.

"Initiatives like these are important to ensure that we decrease the number of infections and pregnancies. You are the leaders of tomorrow - we will make sure that we empower young women."

A learner from Marude Secondary School, Funani Sigidi, said she would take everything that was said very seriously. She is currently in grade 12 and wished to join Univen next year.

Univen, in partnership with the Limpopo Provincial Department of Health, ran the 2017 She Conquers campaign to educate students about issues that

might put their lives at risk.

Themed 'A year of healthy living towards a healthy lifestyle for all', topics included Blessers vs blesees, Unwanted pregnancies and contraceptives, Drug and alcohol abuse, Sexual and gender based violence, Financial literacy, Male medical circumcision, Endometriosis, Cervical cancer, Pap smears and Ask a man. "Girls aged between 15 and 24 need to be educated and protected from older men who attract

them by promising them material things," said Molatelo Makwela of the Limpopo Department of Health.

"We need to teach girls about healthy lifestyles and how to respect their bodies. The series of programmes with the Limpopo Provincial Department of Health ensures that all young girls and boys from communities around the university have a healthy lifestyle," said Univen's Registrar, Prof Edward Nesamvuni.



**Entertaining delegates** - a group of Univen students.



**Exchanging ideas** - students and members of the Department of Health.



**Clarifying thoughts** - questions and answers.



The third evening of the campaign at Nchebeko Off-Campus Residence: students listening to the speakers.



Students attending the fourth evening of the She-Conquers campaign.

## Univen welcomes CATHSSETA

"Univen needs partners to achieve the development of skills," says Univen's Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Peter Mbatlana.

Speaking at a recent meeting with the Culture, Art, Tourism, Hospitality, and Sport Sector Education and Training Authority (CATHSSETA) to discuss the implementation of a skills plan, Mbatlana said even when challenges are encountered, the improvement of schools' achievements with general skills are evident. "Bursaries become more important, looking at where we are located. We



**"Univen needs partners to achieve its development and general skills"** - Mbatlana.



**"An active team who is interested in helping universities"** - Silinga.



**"Discretionary grants to implement the sector skills plan"** - Khosa.



**Joining forces** - the Univen and CATHSSETA team.

appreciate the bursary you are offering."

"The programme creates and improves tailored programmes, primarily for students experiencing financial and development challenges," said the Acting Chief Executive Officer of CATHSSETA,

Sabelo Silinga.

"We address financial challenges in rural areas. We have an active team and staff who are interested in helping universities in development programmes, mostly those in rural areas."

"We have discretionary grants to implement the sector skills plan," said the Regional Manager of CATHSSETA, Phamela Khosa.

"We achieve our objectives in line with the development of the sector."

# Conference inspires the documentation of preserved oral history

Oral history should be documented for future generations to access.

To share preserved oral history, the Limpopo Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and Limpopo Archives, in collaboration with the Oral History Association of South Africa, the Department of Education and the Universities of Venda and Limpopo hosted the first Oral History conference in Phalaborwa recently. The theme was ‘Memories and Memorialisation’.

“The conference should determine the future of oral history in the province,” said Limpopo’s MEC of Sport, Arts and Culture, Onicca Moloi.

“It should set the tone about our seriousness to develop oral history. It should also ensure that study appeals to the ordinary people of our province. We challenge the conference to help produce a well-trained collection of activists who will help document our diverse cultures, history and heritage, using oral history. Our province is well-known for its cultural richness and liberation heritage, which must be documented.

“The documentation of traditional rites, customs, including indigenous knowledge systems, should be well documented to preserve them from extinction. In this manner we will be conserving our cultural heritage for generations to come.”

“Our people should educate themselves about the history of our nation,” said Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality’s Acting Mayor, Councillor Thompson Nkuna.

Officially opening the conference, Nkuna said underwriting the values of heritage helps to know where we come from and where we are heading. We are confident that the conference will yield fruitful outcomes and re-shape the minds of our people. Our history helps us to build a sense of pride,” he said.

“Continue uncovering the hidden history to help the people of South Africa to gain a better understanding of their past and the present realities,” said the Oral History Association of South Africa’s National Deputy President, Nkitseng Mahalefa.

Univen’s Dr Elelwani Ramaite-Mafadza called on the association to ensure that scholars and intellectuals reach out to indigenous communities.

“The same goes for indigenous royal leadership as it should be a collective effort to re-conceptualise the past, encompassing all people, irrespective of race, culture, gender and social status.”

Ramaite-Mafadza’s presentation reflected on issues that started in 1948 when the National Party came into power.

“The creation of homelands resulted into what we are witnessing in the Vuwani area today. From 1948 till today - about 70 years - and yet people are still angry as a result of the forced removals of the Vatsonga people among Vhavenda in the Vhembe area.

“Stop fighting the war that was created by the then Afrikaner National Party. There is inter-ethnic bitterness, which was recently resuscitated among the Vhavenda and Vatsonga. We have not yet reached uhuru. The ‘divide and rule’ strategies that the Apartheid regime had employed have successfully achieved their goals, hence the upheavals among the people in Vuwani. Therefore, a new and effective Truth and Reconciliation Commission should be established, and strategies to heal the strained relations among the people in Vuwani should be suggested and effected,” said Ramaite-Mafadza.

Politician and activist, George Mashamba, is saddened by the state of affairs in South Africa.

“Oliver Tambo would not approve of the personal enrichment of the current leaders, and the fact that they amassed personal power and glory. This, instead of ensuring that equality among the people of South Africa is achieved and poverty is completely eradicated.”

“Oral history allows people to express the knowledge they have,” said Prof Sekgothe Mokoatsana of the Department of Cultural and Political Studies at the University of Limpopo.

“We are one society, irrespective of the movement and political associations. We want people to be proud of their culture. Indigenous knowledge

systems is very important - we should cherish it, as it is part of our history and should be passed from one generation to the next.”

“Our origins, our heritage are diluted and we have lost them to other cultures and other people, especially foreign people’s history,” said the Head of the Limpopo Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, Mortimer Mannya. Oral history and culture is a very important part of human life as it helps us to understand the past as narrated by people who had first-hand experiences of historical occurrences. It helps to reconstruct aspects of the provincial memory that are not recorded, preserved and conserved in the provincial archives and other institutions.

“People should not be ashamed to speak their languages - they should be proud of who they are. It is important to know your history - good or bad - to make informed historical decisions”.

“Oral history is not for teachers only, but also for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture,” said Limpopo’s Department of Education’s Provincial History Co-ordinator and Deputy Chief Education Specialist, Jacob Manenzhe.

“The Department is playing a vital role in ensuring that oral history receives the attention it deserves in the school curriculum. Learners are expected to do research on heritage.”

Novelist Diphete Bopape encouraged people to use traditional medicine like they used to do in the olden days.

“Elders should teach young people the importance of culture. They have more knowledge of oral history which is crucial.”

Gladys Nkhisameri Mnisi, the 81-year old speaker who was born from the royal family in Bushbuckridge, encouraged learners to take education seriously and respect and protect themselves from all kinds of dangers.

“You must eat vegetables so that you can stay healthy and avoid eating too much meat. You must learn to respect taboos, and wait for marriage to come, do not chase after marriages. Refrain from abusing drugs and alcohol, they will destroy you. Be dedicated to your education, so that you can have a better future.”

“The cracks in the South African education system have become too wide for the community to look away from,” said Univen SRC member, Tshepo Pholo Raseala.

“The poor masses, regardless of colour, suffer the wrath of a stagnant, reluctant and lazy education system. An uneducated society is a lost society,” Raseala said.

The conference received three presentations from the National University of Science and Technology in Zimbabwe. The first presentation was about the role of women during and post the war of liberation around the Bulawayo area in Zimbabwe. The second paper looked at the reasons behind the establishment of movements to resuscitate the Ndebele Kingdom in postcolonial Zimbabwe. The third paper was about the custody, preservation and dissemination of indigenous knowledge in the Ndebele community in Zimbabwe.

Most of the secondary schools from different parts of the province attended the conference. Presentations were made by learners of the Vhembe, Mopani, Sekhukhune, Lebowakgomo and Capricorn District Municipalities. About 30 learners from the Shayandima, Thohoyandou, Ligege, Guvhukuvhu, Musina, Giyani, Mahumani, Fetakgomo, Mohlstrutse, Sethwethwa, Noko-Tlou, Tubake, Taxila, Mafolofolo, Mankweng, Nkosilo, Mamphoku and Lekota schools made presentations.

Exhibitions showcased the rich and different African traditions.



**“The Oral History conference will be an annual event” – Moloi.**



**“Oral history helps us to know where we come from” – Nkuna.**



**“Let’s continue uncovering the hidden history of the province” – Mahalefa.**



**“We should love each other irrespective of our cultures” – Ramaite-Mafadza.**



**“We should cherish our oral history” – Mokoatsana.**



**“Oral history is the most interesting means of historical narration” – Mannya.**



**“The department is playing a vital role in oral history” – Manenzhe.**



**“Young people should be taught the importance of culture” – Bopape.**



**“Education is the key to success” – Mnisi.**



**“Poor masses suffer the wrath of stagnant, reluctant and lazy education” – Raseala.**



The Dinoko Tsa Sealeng cultural group.



Learners and attendees from far afield.



Presenters from the National University of Science and Technology in Zimbabwe.



Learners making presentations during the conference.



# Braille and sign language graduates excel

Univen's Braille and South African Sign Language graduates have proved that learning is not age restricted.

Educators of special schools around Limpopo gathered at the University of Venda recently for the graduation of Braille and sign language students as they were recognised for their commitment and hard work.

Braille and sign language are short courses offered by the Univen Innovative Growth Company.

"You are now part of the Univen Alumni structure as your qualifications are issued by the university," said the company's Chief Executive Officer, Dr John Mudau.

"It is always an honour for the Education, Training and Development Practices Sector Education and Training Authority to take part in an event that celebrates excellence," said the SETA's Isaiah Mphaphuli.

"Education is vital in South Africa, hence we have set aside R75 million to support teachers' development in Limpopo. We are not only focusing on teachers but also on financial management and leadership. This can only be achieved through unity between educators, the department and sponsors," he said.

"Despite having no Braille and sign language skills, you persevered and also took part in developing the people of our province," said the Limpopo Department of Education's Wilfred Leshilo.

"Your achievement will assist to make education easily accessible for people with disabilities."

An educator of the Siloe School for the Blind, Sethose Tebogo, said she could not wait to pass on what she had learnt during the course to her blind students.

Studying can be hard, especially if the student has responsibilities like working and taking care of a family. It can put strain on a family due to time management.

However, Walter Nkhwashi of the Mariven Special School did not let this stop him from achieving his goals. "It has not been an easy journey but I pulled through – indeed, hard work pays off," he said.



*I made it!*



*A beaming smile!*



*The crown of hard work - more than 150 students received Braille and South African Sign Language certificates.*

# Univen declares war on dirt in Thulamela



*Community members and Univen staff and students came in large numbers to participate in the cleaning campaign.*

Univen's Amplifying Community Voices Students Association teams - the Community Shakers, Salvation, Simunye, Sunrise and The Bridge – the Thulamela Municipality and community members recently took to the streets to clean up the university, public places and taxi ranks in Thohoyandou.

"Human beings depend on the environment and its natural resources for survival," says Thulamela Municipality Mayor, Councillor Avhashoni Tshifhango.

Addressing more than 600 participating people in the campaign, Tshifhango thanked them for showing a huge sense of civic responsibility.

"People use water from rivers to drink, grow food using the soil and also catch fish in the rivers and dams. Therefore, people should start keeping our environment clean for their own benefit. Let us keep our surroundings clean and manage waste correctly. Clean-up effects provide community health benefits such as the elimination of breeding sites for mosquitoes. Keeping a neighbourhood clean can reduce crime, fear and feelings of helplessness in communities.

"There are many positive links between a clean environment and how we feel about ourselves. If you have a clean area, you also feel good about yourself."

"What people reflect outside was what they thought inside," said Univen's Deputy Vice Chancellor: Academic, Prof Jan Crafford.

"The entire mayoral committee was not afraid of getting their hands dirty to benefit this campaign - that we salute."

"As you clean the surrounding communities, it was also part of fighting diseases such as malaria caused by dirty environments," said Avhafuni Mukwevho of Ha-Makhuvha, a member of the Tshikofokofo Adopt a River project. "Join cleaning campaigns without expecting any financial benefits."

"Participating in this cleaning campaign has taught me how people think about a dirty environment and how to modify our ideologies towards cleaning campaigns and projects", said Tshedza Masithulela, a third year Bachelor of Environmental Sciences student.

"We should all stop littering."



*A clear message - "Human beings depend on the environment for survival".*



*"Keep our surroundings clean and manage waste correctly" - Mayor Tshifhango.*

# Mudzielwana gives back to Univen

Students at Univen’s School of Environmental Sciences have reason to smile after the Chairperson of the School’s Alumni Association, Moudy Mudzielwana, donated ten laptop computers worth R120 000.

The handover ceremony was held at the school’s Postgraduate Computer Lab recently.

Mudzielwana, who is also the Director of the Tshikovha Graduate Academy, said he trusts that the donation would improve access to computers.

“Study for knowledge and not to pass and forget. Translate what you are learning into class practice.”

The Deputy Dean of the school, Dr Samuel Nethengwe, received the laptops on behalf of the school and said the gesture is a way of ploughing back to the school.

Arnold Mashamba, Chairperson of the School of Environmental Sciences, accepted the donation on behalf of the students.

After public interviews, two students of the school,

Colbert Mzamani and Jenifer Mutsila, were selected to participate in the Landfill Audit that Tshikovha Environmental and Communication Consulting is undertaking in the Thulamela Municipality.

“We specialise in the thermal treatment and management of hazardous and toxic waste,” said Ronnie Ramutshila of A-Thermal Retort Technologies.

“We service the pharmaceutical and chemical manufacturing industries’ waste management and

treatment of chemical and pharmaceutical waste. Operating for over 20 years, we focus on the safe disposal of hazardous and toxic wastes. We also incorporate recycling wherever possible.”

“It is good that our alumni have not forgotten their roots,” said Senior Lecturer in the Department of Mining and Environmental Geology, Dr Francis Amponsah Dacosta.

“The donated computers will make learning easier for the students.”



**“Translate what you are learning into class practice”** – Mudzielwana.



**“Education for students will be easier”** – Dacosta.



**“This donation will make a huge difference”** – Mashamba.



**A welcome donation** – from left, Moudy Mudzielwana, Arnold Mashamba, Ronnie Ramutshila and Samuel Nethengwe.



**A welcome donation.**

## Understanding internationalisation at institutional level

“The Impala project has created an effective platform for widening the horizons of leaders, academics and administrators,” says Univen’s Registrar, Prof Edward Nesamvuni.

Speaking at the recent Impala workshop at Univen, Nesamvuni said the university has developed a strong policy framework for internationalisation and strengthening collaboration. “This has helped us at national and international level to establish appropriate services for international students. We recognise our diverse community as a core resource to incubate intercultural and international competencies and to produce new knowledge.”

The Impala project advances the cause of Internationalisation of higher education.

“We are working towards a target of five percent international students from the Southern African Development Community region as envisaged in the 1997 SADC protocol on Higher Education and Training.

“We will identify key partners and develop sustainable, mutually beneficial, in-depth relationships with them to develop projects that will prepare students for global citizenship,” said Nesamvuni.

“Fruitful collaboration between partners requires a lot of dedication and trust,” said the Policy Advisor for International Relations at Antwerp University, Inge Caenen.

“Real trust can only be achieved by bringing people together face to face. Univen has been a strong and committed partner in all our Eurosa projects, including the Impala project, from the start.

“After the training week in Cape Town and the site visits in Europe, this is the third main event in our work plan. We are working on four projects - project writing and management, organising summer schools and short programmes, creating a mobility toolkit and internationalising the curriculum. The workshops are practical,



**“Univen understands internationalisation at an institutional level”** – Nesamvuni.



**“Collaboration requires dedication and trust”** – Caenen.



**“For every organisation to succeed, cooperation is the key”** – Chief Nkhumbuleni Ratshitanga.

helping the participants to set up new initiatives at their universities.”

“Make sure that whatever you bring to this workshop will make an impact on someone’s life,” said Univen’s Acting Director of the Department of Information Technology Services, Chief Nkhumbuleni Ratshitanga.

“Never undermine each other. For every organisation to succeed or achieve goals, cooperation is the key.”

Collen Mangaka, a student of the University of Limpopo, thanked the organisers for a sterling job.

“Everyone was participating at their level best and we were all sharing ideas. I have learnt a lot from this informative workshop.”

The South African partnering universities include the Universities of Venda, Limpopo, Cape Peninsula University of Technology and Fort Hare.



**Collen Mangaka (middle) sharing his ideas on the drafting of a marketing strategy.**



**Participants from partnering universities listening attentively.**



**Solomon Mathase (left) and Ntshauba performing traditional Tshivenda songs.**

# UGO goes even greener during Arbour Week

It was that time of the year – to get the spade and start planting trees – it was 2017 Arbour Week!

During Arbour Week the Universal Greening Organisation, the Vhembe District and the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism celebrated by planting five trees at Univen - a Bird Plum, Pepper Bark tree, Pod Mahogany, Wisteria tree and Forest Natal Mahogany.

“Every tree planted will contribute to the environment,” said the Deputy Chairperson of the School of Environmental Sciences, Arnold Mashamba.

“These trees can be used for medicinal purposes and will play a vital role in peoples’ lives.”

“The world is facing climate change issues,” said co-organiser Hilton Shivhambu.

“Trees play an important role and ensure that the climate goes back to a more normal situation.”

Every year there is a specific tree chosen to be planted. Ziziphus Mucronata, also known as the Buffalo thorn, has been chosen as the Tree of the Year for 2017.

“We have to look after indigenous trees because they play a very important role in our lives,” said the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism’s Assistant Director, Shavhani Neluvhola.

“It is an indigenous tree that was used to heal stomach pains by our forefathers. Look after our forests and rivers. Ziziphus Mucronata is endangered. Communities used it for fire and as a result the world is left with only a few trees of its kind.

“It is our responsibility to also

make sure that the environment is clean. Arbour Day provides knowledge and understanding about indigenous trees. Trees have a good relationship with human beings. They purify our water systems such as rivers and wells, provide oxygen and control the temperature of the environment.”

“Water is life and it is precious,” said Zwivhuya Netshivhambe of the Univen Green Campus Initiative.

“We don’t have enough water to share. We have to save water. Trees and animals, including human beings, depend on water for survival. It is important to save water because in the absence of water there will be no food for us and the animals on this planet.”

“Global warming is one of our challenges as Environmental Sciences students,” said Tshedza Madamalala, a first year student of Earth Science in Mining and Environmental Geology.

He encouraged people to plant trees to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

“We need to comply and change the situation that we are facing.”



“Trees play a vital role in our lives” – Mashamba.



“It is important to plant trees” – Shivhambu.



“It is our responsibility to clean the environment” – Neluvhola.



“Water is life” – Netshivhambe.



“Let’s plant trees and change our environment” – Madamalala.

# Farmers encouraged to plant chickpeas



Univen’s School of Agriculture’s recent Farmers Field Day focused on the production of chickpeas.

Chickpeas have spread their culinary influence across the world. They also come with a range of potential health benefits. Chickpeas are particularly high in fibre.

Studies have shown that people with type 1 diabetes who consume high-fibre diets have lower blood glucose levels. For people with type 2 diabetes, higher fibre intake can improve their blood sugar, lipids, and insulin levels. Chickpeas are a good source of plant-based protein and soluble fibre. Furthermore, they are rich in vitamins and minerals like folate, magnesium, potassium and polyunsaturated fatty acids. They help to stabilise blood sugar levels.

“Chickpeas are the most complete nutritional food,” says a Lecturer in the Department of Food Science and Technology, Mpho Mashau.

“Chickpeas are rich in protein. Chickpeas also prevent children from suffering from malnutrition. They must be added on soft porridge. Obesity in South Africa is very high. These peas are also rich in several vitamins and they have iron and iodine. They contain a lot of dietary fibre and can assist the body in fighting obesity, because they reduce the eating habit.”

In terms of the marketing aspects, Thulani Zwane of the Department of Economic Development said: “Whatever you produce, should be well marketed. You have to check how chickpeas are utilised for human consumption, and determine the size of the market.



“People with sugar diabetes should eat chickpeas” – Mashau.



“You must have good marketing skills” – Zwane.

“Chickpeas are being imported into South Africa because they have great potential. Ethiopia is the largest producer of chickpeas in Africa.”

Gathering knowledge at the Farmers Field Day.

At the experiential farm, Prof John Ogola of the Department of Plant Production said they have planted six different varieties of chickpeas.

“Chickpeas don’t need a lot of water. They should be planted in winter as they don’t grow well in summer because of too much rainfall.

“It takes two to four months for chickpeas to reach maturity, depending on the variety and temperature. The plants should be irrigated once a week.”

The event was attended by the President of the African Farmers Association of South Africa in Limpopo, Tshiane Mathidi and some of the traditional leaders.



Chickpeas help to stabilise blood sugar levels.



Chickpeas don’t need a lot of water.



AFASA President Tshiane Mathidi at the Farmers Field Day.

Plant a tree – help enhancing the climate.



## We would like to hear from you!

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