



Annual
Report



UNIVERSITY OF VENDA





Vision

To be at the centre of tertiary education for rural and regional development in Southern Africa.

Mission

As a comprehensive institution, the University of Venda offers a range of undergraduate and post-graduate qualifications in fields of study that are responsive to the development needs of the Southern African region, using appropriate learning methodologies and research.

Highlights of the year

Income increased by 22% compared to 2007 from R364.6 million to R444.7 million.

Univen obtained funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the Swedish Research Council for research on dietary intakes, physical activity patterns and certain medical conditions of rural African children.

Financial aid support and bursaries increased to R131.2 million, from R93.3 million in 2007.

Staff of the Centre for Biokinetics, Recreation and Sport Science served on the executive boards of the International Society for Comparative Physical Education and Sport and the International Council for Sport Science and Physical Education.

Univen students Sydwell Manthonsi and Kgomotso Motjane represented South Africa in wheelchair tennis at the Paralympic Games in Beijing in 2008.

The Univen soccer team is the University Students Sports Association national champions.

Staff members of the MER Mathivha Centre started teaching Tshivenda and Xitsonga at the Great Zimbabwe University. The first group of students wrote their examinations in July 2008.

Prof Mammino of the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences served on the international advisory board of the 4th International Conference on Green and Sustainable Chemistry and the 2nd Asian-Oceanian Conference on Green and Sustainable Chemistry held in Beijing, China.

Some 3 000 learners from schools in the region visited the Vuwani Science Resource Centre to obtain practical lessons in Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

The University's flagship careers exhibition - the University of Venda, Careers Exhibition and Information Association - drew more than 21 000 learners from 262 secondary schools.

National Science Week attracted more than a 1 000 learners from 15 schools to the Vuwani Science Resource Centre. The Centre also provided content revision and pre-exam coaching to the grade 12 Science and Mathematics learners of the nine schools in the Kagiso Trust-Beyers Naudé school support programme.

Mr Shai, a postgraduate student in the School of Human and Social Sciences was awarded as the Africa Institute's most promising African researcher.

More than R6,3 million was allocated for campus infrastructure to assist disabled people - more than R4,4 million for a new building for the Disabled Student Unit, more than R1,4 million for assistive devices and about R425 000 for equipment and furniture.

A grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences allows for research into the etiology, risk factors and interactions of enteric infections and malnutrition and its consequences for child health and development.





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Completing and sustaining the journey to a comprehensive university

Report of the Chairperson of Council

The University of Venda is committed, willing and able to complete and sustain the road it has embarked upon to become a comprehensive university, serving the communities that it draws its clients from.

During the year under review the Council continued with the recovery plan that was initiated in the preceding two years. Council is confident that it has exercised a sufficient oversight role on the management of the University in the execution of responsibilities and resolutions.

Since 1994 the government has made huge investments in education and training, with education enjoying the largest share of the national budget for the past 15 years. This significant investment in building human capital and capabilities has gradually improved the quality of the country's human resource and skills base. However, recognising the importance of skills and education to enable every member of society to realise her or his potential

and participate in social and economic life, the government's medium term strategic framework focuses the skills and education system towards the delivery of quality outcomes.

This focus to strengthen the skills and human resource base includes an improvement of learner outcomes by 20 percent in the key education indicators by 2014. This can be achieved by, among others, more effective utilisation of resources to improve the quality of education in the public education system and ensuring accountability by performance measurements. Systems to monitor students who complete their educational programmes as well as a learner tracking system to help improve both efficiency and quality of education, should be in place.

The University of Venda subscribes fully to this and we have already embarked on this road in implementing our recovery plan.



"Univen fully subscribes to the government's medium term strategic framework focus for the skills and education system towards the delivery of quality outcomes."

***Justice Yvonne Mokgoro
Chairperson of Council***



One of the main objectives of Council in 2007 was to oversee the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor and the Deputy Vice-Chancellors. The University had been running with an Acting Vice-Chancellor since July 2005. The new Vice-Chancellor, Prof Peter Mbatia, took office as Vice-Chancellor Designate on 1 February 2008, and took over as Vice-Chancellor and Principal on 1 June 2008. On the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor, the new executive management and senior management structures were approved by Council. This was in line with Council's objective of putting into place a functional organisational structure. This resulted in a lean management structure that is cost-effective and delivery focused.

In addition to the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor, Council appointed the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic, Prof Xikombiso Mbhenyane and Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Operations, Dr Jannie Zaaiman. This completed the composition of the executive management made up of the Vice-Chancellor, two Deputy Vice-Chancellors and the University Registrar.

The Council approved the re-organisation of the academic and administrative structures as proposed by the Vice-Chancellor. A new School of Education was introduced to enable the University to focus on the provision of educators. A new directorate of Community Engagement and another of Institutional Planning and Quality Assurance were introduced.

Council received reports of students excelling in sports in 2008. Of particular significance was the Univen soccer team becoming the national champions

in the University Students Sports Association by beating the University of Johannesburg. Our disabled students represented South Africa in Wheelchair Tennis competitions in Italy and in the Paralympic Games in Beijing.

Our external auditors stated that the Council has managed the University's financial resources satisfactorily and that the institution is in good financial health. Council is confident that management has exercised sufficient control over funds received from government subsidy and student fees, which are our main sources of income, and that the funds have been used in the interest of the University to the best extent possible.

One of the most serious problems Council is faced with is provision of student accommodation on campus. This problem is linked to ownership of the land on which the University is situated. Attempts to have the land registered in the name of the University have so far not borne fruit. Slow progress on this front has retarded the University's attempt to enter into public/private partnerships in the provision of accommodation to students. In line with approved budgets the renovation of buildings and staff houses continued in 2008. Council approved the construction of a building to cater for the needs of disabled students. Other approved plans are for the construction of:

- A new lecture hall complex.
- A new life sciences and chemistry block.
- An extension to the environmental sciences building.
- A new student administration building.
- An extension and refurbishment to the library.
- A conversion of vacated space in the existing physical sciences building to physical sciences, mathematics and statistics.

The University engaged in social responsibility activities which included hosting winter school for grade 12 learners, organising, in partnership with government departments, poverty alleviation workshops, assisting the Great Zimbabwe University in the teaching of Tshivenda and Xitsonga and taking a conscious decision to admit students from Zimbabwe as part of an agreement with the Zimbabwean government in terms of chapter 10 of the SADC Protocol on Education.





Council composition

Section	Representative	Term
1. Section 16.4. (a) The Principal; Ex-officio	1. Prof PA Mbatl	Ex-officio
2. Section 16.4. (b) Vice-Principal/s; Ex-officio	2. Vacant 3. Vacant	Ex-officio Ex-officio
3. Section 16.4. (c) Any three experts designated by Council	4. Mr MP Mudau 5. Dr S Ramaite 6. Mr RE Maponya	28-11-2005 to 27-11-2009
4. Section 16.4. (d) Five people appointed by the Minister	7. Justice JY Mokgoro (Chairperson) 8. Dr TE Mdlalose 9. Mrs A Lawless 10. Vacant 11. Vacant	28-11-2005 to 27-11-2009
5. Section 16.4 (e) One person appointed by the Premier of the Limpopo Province after consultation with the Minister	12. Mr KE Mahoai	28-11-2005 to 27-11-2009
6. Section 16.4 (f) Two people elected by the Senate from among its members	13. Dr DG Thabede 14. Prof TS Tshivhase-Phendla	28-11-2005 to 27-11-2009 26-09-2008 to 27-11-2009
7. Section 16.4 (g) Two people elected by the Convocation	15. Mr MS Mukhavhuli 16. Mr SM Ravhuanzwo	21-02-2007 to 27-11-2009 28-11-2005 to 27-11-2009
8. Section 16.4 (h) Two people designated by people who, in terms of the statute, are donors.	17. Mr E Ratshikhopha 18. Mr LR Kone	28-11-2005 to 27-11-2009

Council composition continued

Section	Representative	Term
9. Section 16.4. (i) One academic employee of the University other than members of the Senate, elected by the academic employees	19. Adv LR Maluleke	08-06-2007 to 27-11-2009
10. Section 16.4. (j) Two students of the University elected by the Students' Representative Assembly	20. Mr M Motadi 21. Mr LL Ledwaba	27-11-2008 to 27-11-2009
11. Section 16.4. (k) One member elected by the service employees	22. Mr MP Takalani	02-02-2008 to 27-11-2009
12. Section 16.4. (l) One member elected by the administrative employees	23. Mr NT Ratshitanga	26-09-2008 to 27-11-2009
13. Section 16.4 (m) One person designated by the Thulamela Municipality	24. Mr TN Makumbane	28-11-2005 to 27-11-2009
14. Section 16.4 (n) Other people, not exceeding six in number, designated by such bodies as may be determined by the Council	25. Association of African Universities - Prof PM Makhurane 26. SA College Principal's Organisation - Mr KR Madzhie 27. Local Traditional Authorities – Dr JG Tshifularo 28. Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) – Dr U Pillay 29. Human Rights Commission – Ms E Mabusela 30. Commission on Gender Equality – Mrs C Majake	28-11-2005 to 27-11-2009 28-11-2005 to 27-11-2009 28-11-2005 to 27-11-2009 08-09-2005 to 27-11-2009 28-11-2005 to 27-11-2009 01-02-2007 to 27-11-2009

The University Registrar, Mr KC Nemadzivhanani, is ex-officio Secretary to Council.

I am confident that the committees of Council fulfilled their mandated responsibilities adequately. These committees were composed of dedicated individuals with skills and knowledge that enabled them to make informed decisions. All the committees were chaired by people with requisite knowledge and experience.

Justice Yvonne Mokgoro
Chairperson of Council



On the road to becoming a comprehensive university

Report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal on management and administration

It was a pleasure for me to be entrusted with the responsibility of leading the University of Venda. I took office as Vice-Chancellor Designate on 1 February 2008 and as Vice-Chancellor and Principal on 1 June 2008.

Over the next few years Univen will restructure and position itself to become an important catalyst in the growth and development of Limpopo.

Universities across the world are considered as key strategic assets for the growth and development of modern societies. Univen is no exception. We are committed to working with all stakeholders to serve as an engine that drives the growth of our province. A successful university model is one in



which the academic programmes and research activities are in harmony with the developmental needs of the community.

We are converting into a comprehensive university. This involves the re-engineering of our core business, including the development of a new qualifications structure and programme profile to enable us to be at the centre of tertiary education for rural and regional development in Southern Africa.

A concrete step towards achieving this is the establishment of a Centre for Higher Education, Teaching and Learning. The centre will offer a holistic range of programmes and services on teaching and learning to guarantee continuous improvement in throughput and graduation rates at Univen.

We have also established the Centre for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation to support government's efforts in implementing programmes in this regard. As agriculture is an important economic activity in the Vhembe district, it is a major theme in the centre's programme of action.

The support that we continue to receive from the national Department of Education allows us to address serious backlog maintenance problems and to refurbish a number of buildings, including our student residences. We will not disappoint our stakeholders in our commitment to be a quality driven, financially sustainable, rural based comprehensive university.

In 2007, Council set these main objectives for 2008 -

- The appointment of Deputy Vice-Chancellors.
- The finalisation of a requisite management structure.
- Ensuring that the teaching and learning enterprise is carried out successfully.



"Univen is positioning itself to become an important catalyst in the growth and development of Limpopo."

Prof Peter Mbatlali
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

I assumed leadership in the execution of these responsibilities. The process of appointing Deputy Vice-Chancellors followed a thorough consultative process, which saw all staff and student structures participating through the Institutional Forum.

I submitted a proposal for a new management structure to Council, which was approved after consultations with the Institutional Forum. This management structure consists of two levels - the executive management and the senior management committees.

The new executive management committee

Portfolio	Name	Gender
1. Vice-Chancellor and Principal	Prof PA Mbatl	Male
2. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)	Prof XG Mbhenyane	Female
3. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Operations)	Dr JJ Zaaiman	Male
4. University Registrar	Mr KC Nemadzivhanani	Male



The process of establishing a senior management structure entailed:

- Deans in all eight schools with a gender equity balance of 50:50.
- Appointment of Deputy Vice-Chancellors.
- Appointment of Director: Research and Innovation and Director: Community Engagement.
- Appointment of Employee Relations Manager.
- Consultations with all directors in the implementation of the senior management structure, as provided for in Section 189 of the Labour Relations Act on contemplated restructuring, were completed. Individual assessments for all directors were concluded and a report was presented to the HR Committee of Council.
- Appointment of Director: Finance and Director: Student Affairs.

The new senior management structure

Portfolio	Name	Gender
1. Vice-Chancellor and Principal	Prof PA Mbatl	Male
2. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)	Prof XG Mbhenyane	Female
3. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Operations)	Dr JJ Zaaiman	Male
4. University Registrar	Mr KC Nemadzivhanani	Male
5. Deputy Registrar (Academic Administration)	Mr NH Mugwedi	Male
5. Interim Co-ordinator of Institutional Planning to the Vice-Chancellor's office	Prof PH Omara-Ojunga	Male
6. Legal Advisor to the Vice-Chancellor	Dr MN Lidovho	Male
Deans of Schools		
7. Agriculture	Prof REL Ole-Meiludie	Male

8. Postgraduate and Integrated Studies	Prof ELM Bayona	Male
9. Environmental Sciences	Prof JS Ogola	Male
10. Health Sciences	Prof XG Mbhenyane	Female
11. Human & Social Sciences	Prof DT Ngobeli	Female
12. Law	Prof O Mireku	Male
13. Management Sciences	Prof AB Gyekye	Male
14. Mathematical and Natural Sciences	Prof JE Crafford	Male

Directors

15. Executive Director: Human Resources	Mr T Manenzhe	Male
16. Centre for Student Counselling, Social & Academic Development	Dr MC Selepe	Female
17. Information Technology Services	Mr NJ Vele	Male
18. Finance	Mr TNB Ramulongo Mr P Slack	Male
19. Library Services	Mrs M T Mulaudzi	Female
20. Communications, Marketing & Institutional Advancement	Mr TV Dzaga	Male
21. Physical Planning and Infrastrure Management	Mr MR Mkhize	Male
22. Quality Assurance & Promotion	Dr MA Makhafola	Male
23. Research and Innovation	Prof OS Fatoki	Male

The new structure is designed to enable the University to focus on the core business of teaching, learning, research and community engagement.

Employment equity variables for 2008

Employment equity variable	Total	%	Academic staff	%	Support staff	%
Black	661	94,84	232	87,22	429	99,54
Coloured	1	0,14	1	0,38	0	0
Indian	5	0,72	5	1,88	0	0
White	30	4,30	28	10,53	2	0,46
Female	326	46,77	100	37,59	226	52,44
Male	371	53,23	166	62,41	205	47,56

The University experienced staff recruitment and retention difficulties in areas such as Town and Regional Planning and Mining and Environmental Geology. We also started engaging the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants with the accreditation of our Bachelor of Commerce – Accounting programme. A positive development was the accreditation of the Mining and Mine Surveying programmes by the professional bodies.

The University embarked on a calculated cost-cutting exercise through authorising expenditure on essential activities only. This initiative involved both the academic and administrative sections of the University and received the co-operation of all concerned. It resulted in a budget surplus as indicated in our audited financials. A robust and consultative budgetary process was introduced in 2008, which resulted in ownership of the process by stakeholders.

Our Information Technology Services Department provides regular management information to facilitate proper decision making. Our information





system has been benchmarked against best practice and we are confident that we make decisions based on reliable information.

Management facilitates a vibrant extra-curricular culture, especially in the sporting arena and supports students in their quest for excellence. The student governance is run on a parliamentary basis that is fully participatory. I addressed the official opening of the student parliament in 2008. Students also participate in academic decision making through representation at Senate.

The University organised a winter school for grade 12 learners in 2008. The learners contributed a minimal fee for their tuition and were accommodated in our residences for three weeks at no charge. The University also runs tutorial sessions and leads high school learners in science laboratory experiments at its Vuwani Science Resource Centre. Learners from different secondary schools in the area take turns to visit the centre accompanied by their educators. In 2008, 3 000 learners benefited from this initiative.

On the academic planning front, we continued efforts to convert to a comprehensive University by embarking on an academic programme portfolio review exercise. Following the recommendations of the review, consultations were underway to introduce diploma and certificate programmes in identified areas. Subject combinations in some undergraduate programmes have been streamlined to make room for possible career-focused programmes.

Council approved the programme portfolio review report on converting Univen to a comprehensive university. Interim Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Jim Leatt and Mr Jon File assisted with workshops for deans, heads of departments and

management on the academic planning activities of the University in meeting the size and shape targets as determined by the Minister of Education.

The main areas of discussion during the workshops were -

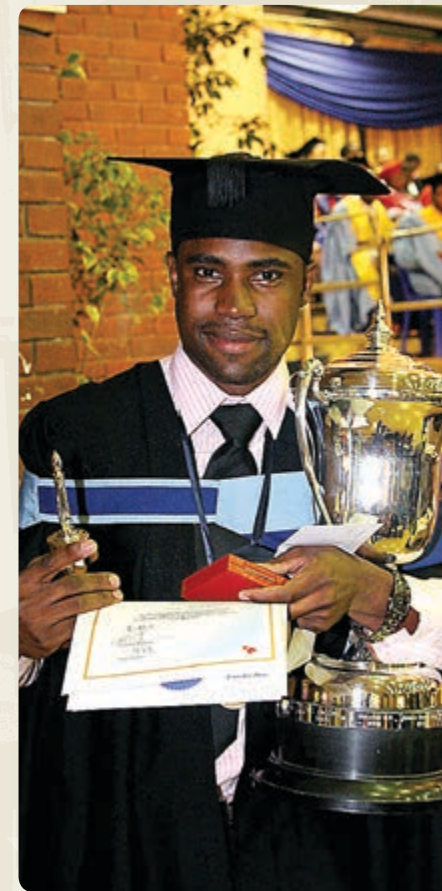
- Viability and relevance analysis for certificate and diploma programmes.
- Recurriculation of academic programmes.
- Progress on academic planning and improvement plans.
- Viability and relevance analysis of postgraduate programmes.
- Student enrolment plan for 2009 and application of readmission rules.
- Higher Education Centre for Teaching and Learning.

As part of our continued relationship with the community, we organised various seminars in which I consciously played a leading role. At the seminar on partnerships for rural development through the implementation of the government's programme of action, I spoke about building bridges among stakeholders for effective rural development. The seminar was attended by stakeholders from national, provincial and local government levels.

We also hosted a seminar on the challenges of social cohesion, with a focus on xenophobia. The purpose of the seminar was to provide a perspective on xenophobia by addressing legal, social, political and economic issues. Presentations were made by the Executive Mayor of the Vhembe District Municipality Mr Mdaka, King KMP Tshivhase, Prof Oseifuah of the School of Management Sciences, Mr Cornelius Hagenmeier of the Ismael Mohammed Centre for Human and People's Rights and Mr Khuliso Nematdizhanani, the Univen Registrar. It was well attended by members of our immediate community, staff and students.

I mandated the internal auditors to investigate allegations of financial irregularities and maladministration that had come to light. The outcome of the investigation confirmed some of the allegations and appropriate corrective actions were taken against the individuals concerned.

Prof Peter Mbatl
Vice-Chancellor and Principal





Council statement on corporate governance

The Council of the University of Venda operates under the principles of accountability, integrity and openness as expressed in the King III Report on corporate governance. The Council is aware of its responsibilities as required by the Higher Education Act, 1997, Act 101 of 1997 for governing the University as a public body committed to becoming a centre of excellence.

The Institutional Forum

The Institutional Forum has, since its establishment, been engaged in its advisory role in various activities on campus such as the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor and the approval of the proposed senior management structure. Its members were elected from internal and external constituencies.

These constituencies were each represented by three of their members:

- Council
- University management
- Senate
- Academic staff
- Administrative staff
- Service staff
- Convocation
- Student Representative Assembly

The nomination of representatives was transparent and democratic. The following members represented their structures on the Institutional Forum:

Council

Mr RE Maponya, Mr SM Ravhuanzwo, Mr KR Madzhie

University management

Mr NJ Vele, Mr MR Mkhize, Prof PH Omara-Ojunga

Senate

Prof DT Ngobeli, Dr MP Mulaudzi, Prof IP Matamba

Academic staff

Dr NE Phaswana, Dr LLT Lalendle, Ms A Lansink later replaced by Adv LR Maluleke

Convocation

Mr F Mvundlela, Mrs TY Mudau, Mr MS Mukhavhuli

Students' Representative Assembly

Mr TT Kuaho, Mr KW Mphaga, Ms AA Ramanyimi

Administrative staff

Mr TA Mmbadi, Adv DE Maphwanya, Mr BL Makhado

Service staff

Mr MP Takalani, Ms L Khwashaba, Mr NA Mutoti

All participants on the Institutional Forum had an identifiable and significant constituency and mandated capacity to act on behalf of their constituencies.

The Executive Committee of the Institutional Forum consisted of the –

Chairperson - Mr MS Mukhavhuli

Deputy Chairperson - Adv DE Maphwanya

Secretary to the Institutional Forum - Dr NE Phaswana

Three additional members: Prof TD Ngobeli
Ms A Lansink
Mr F Mvundlela



The functions of the Institutional Forum are to –

Advise Council on issues affecting the University, including –

- The implementation of the Act and the national policy on higher education.
- Race and gender equity policies.
- The selection of candidates for senior management positions.
- The code of conduct, mediation and dispute resolution procedures.
- The fostering of an institutional culture that promotes tolerance and respect for fundamental human rights.

The Forum also performs such other functions as determined by Council.

The constitution of the Forum was duly submitted to Council for their approval and meetings were held in accordance thereto.



Council

The Council consists of people elected in accordance with the University of Venda Statute of 2005. In total 60 percent of Council members are outside people and the rest are staff and student members. This ensures objectivity as well as stakeholder participation in University governance.

For purposes of managing, controlling and executing its duties, Council has seven sub-committees:

1. The Executive Committee of Council, also serving as the Executive Remuneration Committee
2. The Audit Committee
3. The Finance Committee
4. The Senate
5. The Human Resources Committee
6. The Student Affairs Committee
7. The Tender Committee.

These committees normally meet four times per year, prior to Council meetings, and submit reports for consideration at each meeting. They also make appropriate recommendations to Council within their spheres of operation. All these committees are chaired by outside members of Council.

Executive Committee

This committee is composed of chairpersons of all Council committees, two additional members who are drawn from other members of Council, the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellors and the University Registrar as Secretary.

Audit Committee

The committee ensures that financial procedures and controls are adhered to, that internal auditing requirements are met and makes recommendations to Council.

The Committee has two additional outside members who are experts in the auditing environment.

Finance Committee

This committee ensures that the available financial resources of the University are allocated in accordance with its vision and mission, to ensure adequate and effective implementation of the strategic plan.

Human Resources Committee

This committee makes recommendations on staffing and staff conditions of service.

Student Affairs Committee

This committee advises on student activities and student life.

Tender Committee

This committee adjudicates on tenders in line with procurement procedures.

Senate

The Senate advises on all academic issues to allow Council to control and manage activities of the University.

Senate report on teaching and research

The Senate is responsible for the academic enterprise of the University, including research development and management as well as examinations. It undertakes this through its committees, such as the Boards of Schools, the Academic Planning Committee, the Research and Publications Committee, the Quality Assurance Board and the Executive Committee of Senate.

On 31 December 2008, Senate consisted of 101 members, of whom 37 were professors. The Senate draws its members from Council, the Vice-Chancellor



and Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Deans, Directors of academic centres, heads of academic departments, professors, senior lecturers, lecturers, resource persons, observers and student representatives, in accordance with a proportion determined by the Statute.

Curriculum matters

The University has adopted a problem based, project organised delivery mode. Students, assisted by their instructors, identify problems in society and develop solutions thereto. The curriculum accentuates the integration of theory and practice. The philosophy is to empower students with the requisite skills to face present-day as well as future challenges.

In 2008 Senate realised the conversion to a comprehensive university by putting into place plans for the size and shape of the University by 2010, as determined by the Minister. Re-configuration of some academic departments, with consequential name changes to reflect changing functionalities followed.

The School of Education was introduced with these restructured departments -

- The Department of Curriculum Studies and Education Management.
- The Department of Professional Studies.
- The Department of Early Childhood Education.
- The Department of Mathematics, Science and Technology Education.

Senate also approved these curriculum initiatives –

- The introduction of a BCom Hons in Business Information Systems.
- The reduction of subject combinations in the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences from 28 to 16.
- The alignment of the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences to Higher Education Quality Framework requirements.
- The review of postgraduate supervision arrangements.
- The dissolution of the School of Postgraduate and Integrated Studies and incorporation of its constituent parts to other schools.
- The introduction of siSwati as an additional African language.
- The establishment of a Proofreading and Editing Services Unit.
- The establishment of a Statistical Service Unit.



Programme and qualification mix

A programme portfolio review was undertaken to facilitate the transformation to a comprehensive university with the correct mix between career focused and degree programmes. This involved a review of the viability and relevance of programmes and an identification of certificates and diploma programmes, in the right disciplinary combinations.

Quality assurance

A Directorate of Quality Assurance and Promotion was established to raise the standards of academic and administrative performance to meet national and international standards. This entails the implementation of quality assurance strategies at all levels, the development of strategies for preparing the University for the Higher Education Quality Committee institutional and other audits and the improvement of continuous monitoring and evaluation

systems. It also makes provision for national and international benchmarking and the development and implementation of performance management systems, employment contracts and the establishment of a system of rewards and penalties.

Enrolment and qualifications

In the reporting year the University's student head count came to 11 145. Of these, 5 474 were female and 5 671 were male.

Graduation statistics for the 2008 academic year

Doctoral degree	4
General academic 1st B degree	772
Honours degree	82
Masters degree	45
Post-graduate B degree	1
Post-graduate diploma or certificate	40
Professional academic 1st B degree - 3 years	86
Professional 1st B degree	392
Undergraduate diploma or certificate - 2 years	221
Undergraduate diploma or certificate	101
Total	1 744

Research development

Although the University by comparison lacks advanced technology and adequate resources, academics are still engaged in research activity. Some research projects/articles have been published in accredited journals, whereas a significant percentage has its place in various other publications. Apart

from these, there are budding authors who have begun co-authoring and publishing books.

The University has embarked on a vigorous programme to encourage staff members to present quality papers at conferences. This initiative seems to be paying dividends, as even junior staff members are becoming eager and confident participants at conferences, workshops and seminars.

The University also has partnerships with the local communities as it regularly initiates and conducts research projects, and formed partnerships with international universities and organisations.

Programmes

The programmes undertaken in the reporting year addressed challenges around health like HIV/AIDS, waterborne and other biotic diseases, agricultural production and rural development, water and sanitation, education, environment and community engagement. A variety of programmes were supported by the Limpopo Province, the Development Bank of Southern Africa and various government departments.

In 2008 Senate worked steadily towards fulfilling the mandate of transforming to a quality driven, financially sustainable, rural-based comprehensive University. To this end, steps were taken to re-orientate the academic direction of the University.

Prof Peter Mbatlali
Vice-Chancellor and Principal
Chairperson of Senate





Overview of schools

Tuition at the University is provided in eight schools - Agriculture, Education, Environmental Sciences, Health Sciences, Human and Social Sciences, Law, Management Sciences and Mathematical and Natural Sciences - each with various departments.

School of Agriculture

The names of the School of Agriculture, Rural Development and Forestry and that of the Centre for Rural Development were changed to the School of Agriculture and the Centre for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation respectively.

The School provided professional education and training to under and postgraduate students, undertook appropriate research and carried out community engagement activities, relevant to the needs of government, private sector and the rural community, to promote sustainable livelihoods.



The School has nine academic departments as well as the Centre for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation. The academic departments are - Animal Science, Agricultural and Rural Engineering, Agricultural Economics and Extension, Family Ecology and Consumer Sciences, Food Science and Technology, Forestry, Horticultural Sciences, Plant Production and Soil Science. In addition, the School has an experimental farm that forms an important hub for students' training, staff and students' research projects and production activities.

During the year under review some academic units were reconfigured, which led to the dissolution of the School of Postgraduate and Integrated Studies. Staff members from the former centres and institutes were relocated to the Schools of Agriculture, Human and Social Sciences and Management Sciences.

The School continued to offer teaching and learning activities at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. At undergraduate level the three-year Bachelor of Agriculture and Bachelor of Family Ecology and Consumer Sciences programmes were offered. The four-year Bachelor of Science in Agriculture with fields of specialisation in Agricultural Economics and Extension, Agricultural and Rural Engineering, Animal Science, Horticultural Sciences, Plant Production and Soil Science were offered. The other four-year degrees offered were the Bachelor of Science in Forestry, Bachelor of Science in Food Science and Technology and Bachelor of Agribusiness Management.

At postgraduate level the School offered honours degrees in Agriculture and in Rural Development. The Master of Science in Agriculture offered fields of specialisation in Animal Science, Agricultural Economics and Extension, Soil Science, Horticultural Science and Plant Production. Two other master's



"The School provides professional education and training relevant to the needs of government, private sector and the rural community, to promote sustainable livelihoods."

***Prof Raphael Ole-Meiludie
Dean: School of Agriculture***



degrees on offer were the Master of Science in Food Science and Technology and the Master in Rural Development.

Two doctorates were offered during the review year – a Doctor of Philosophy in Agriculture in specified fields of specialisation and a Doctor of Philosophy in Rural Development.

Postgraduate student numbers increased by 76 percent compared to the previous year, while the undergraduate student enrolment remained about the same. In total 595 students - 535 undergraduates and 60 postgraduates - were enrolled.

The School undertook more than 40 research projects, ranging from research in cost-effective cropping and on-farm processing technologies, financed by the Development Bank of Southern Africa, to green manure legume cover crops for improving soil fertility, financed by the National Research Foundation and developing emerging farmer crop-livestock systems in the northern parts of South Africa, financed by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. Other research projects included an



assessment of the sustainability of poverty eradication projects in the rural communities of the Capricorn District Municipality in Limpopo, financed by the Land Bank, and a baseline study on the Communal Land Rights Act, financed by the Department of Land Affairs.

Publications, seminars and workshops

Staff members published in no less than 25 publications. This included a chapter by Prof Francis and Dr Moyo on experiences in improving service delivery to rural communities in the Bulilima and Mangwe Districts of Zimbabwe through an integrated rural development programme in the publication *Innovations in Rural Development* and Prof Odhiambo and Mr Bomke's article, the potential of winter cover crops to accumulate residual fall nitrogen in the Fraser river delta of British Columbia, in the *World Journal of Agricultural Sciences*.

Community outreach programmes

The various departments and the Centre undertook about 20 community outreach activities. These included assisting emerging farmers with alternative feeding techniques and a ration formulation integrated animal production programme, as well as a community flower-growing project for poverty alleviation with the Bungeni Emerging Farmers Group, the Botlokwa Disabled Learning Centre and the Modimole Indigenous Agro-processing Cooperative.

Collaboration and linkages

During 2008, the School established and fostered linkages and collaborations with international, national and regional institutions, industry, government departments, nongovernmental organisations, local communities and private sector organisations. These included linkages with the Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, the Departments of Agriculture and Water Affairs and Forestry, the Agricultural Research Council's Plant Protection Research and Onderstepoort Veterinary Institutes and the Universities of Limpopo, Pretoria and Stellenbosch.





School of Education

The School of Education was established in October 2008. Before that the School operated as the Department of Teacher Education, affiliated to the School of Human and Social Sciences.

The School consists of four academic departments – The Departments of Curriculum Studies and Educational Management, Early Childhood Education, Mathematics, Science and Technology Education and Professional Studies.

It offers 16 programmes that were crafted in response to the person power needs of the education sector and includes various graduate and postgraduate offerings. Various short courses like life orientation and mathematical literacy were also offered during the review year.

In 2008 the School enrolled 1 256 students, compared to 973 in 2007.

The increase in enrolment is attributable to the bursaries available for education programmes and enabled the accommodation of some economically disadvantaged students. Bursary schemes like Funza Lushaka, the Department of Education and Training's National Student Financial Aid Scheme and those of the Limpopo and Mpumalanga Departments of Education were offered.



The School registered an average throughput rate of 76,5% in 2008.

The School runs a niche project, the International Successful School Principals Project, which examines the leadership and management styles of successful schools in the University's catchment area. The project received funding of R100 000 and researchers started with data collection.

Publications, seminars and workshops

Prof Tshivhase-Phendla was invited to the inaugural international symposium of the first lady president of the Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in the USA. Her chapter Women on the rise: where are women in educational leadership positions in South Africa? was published in the book Women Leading Education across the Continents: Sharing the Spirit, Fanning the Flame.

Community outreach programmes

The School offered Saturday and winter school programmes where secondary school learners received information on Univen's academic programmes. The Saturday and winter school programmes also assisted learners with their school subjects to promote high pass rates.

Research was undertaken to assess students' needs in science and mathematics in Thohoyandou. The School will analyse the results and determine the degree of intervention and funding required for the exercise.

Collaboration and linkages

The School is a member of the Africa for Future Consortium that facilitates the sharing of knowledge and resources and facilitates partnerships in support of the common goal of promoting and increasing understanding of higher education in Africa.



"Our programmes are crafted in response to the person power needs of the education sector."

Prof Thidziambi Tshivhase – Phendla
Dean: School of Education



School of Environmental Sciences

The School provides development strategies and skills to address the widespread environmental problems within the region. These include declining productivity of agricultural lands, soil erosion, declining biodiversity, encroachment into marginal and sensitive environments and impacts due to mining activities.

It is also committed to help alleviate poverty and other socio-economic woes within the region through the dissemination of knowledge and skills on



sustainable resource allocation, development and management.

The School offers a range of pre-and post-degree qualifications in five departments -

- The Department of Ecology and Resource Management.
- The Department of Geography and Geo-Information Sciences.
- The Department of Hydrology and Water Resources.
- The Department of Mining and Environmental Geology.
- The Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

The School also manages an Environmental Advisory and Assessment Unit for income generation and community service, and a Geographic Information System Resource Centre that is involved in analysis and map production and offers a certificate course in this study direction.

In the year under review the School had 1 971 undergraduate students and 45 postgraduates of which 19 were honours, 22 masters and four PhD's. It also conducted block teaching for 33 students for the Diploma in Mining and Post-Mining Rehabilitation and for 40 students for the Diploma in Natural Resource Management.

Research programmes undertaken included an organic fruit cropping agro-ecosystem, a comparative study of small mammal biodiversity in Limpopo habitats and the monitoring of algal toxins in the Luvuvhu River catchment and the implications for Human health. Other research programmes investigated the origin, pathways and impacts of heavy metals in soils around Polokwane and the Ebenezer dam, the assessment of impacts of dams on downstream river ecosystems in Limpopo, and the assessment of major environmental stresses and the development of strategies for the rehabilitation of abandoned mines.

In a R2,4 million project, the School also researched bulk water supply systems and operation monitoring and evaluation support, in cooperation with the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry and the University of the Witwatersrand. The project includes sub-projects like compiling operating



"We are committed to help alleviate poverty and other socio-economic woes within the region."

***Prof Jason S Ogola
Dean: School of Environmental Sciences***

rules for the Hluhluwe Dam, an operating strategy for rural water supply systems and the Pongola Dam release policy.

The Water Research Commission funded collaborative research to the tune of R4 million on the measurement of the bulk flow and transport characteristics of selected fractured rock aquifer systems in South Africa. The research is done in collaboration with the Institute for Groundwater Studies of the University of the Free State, the Department of Geology at the University of Fort Hare, the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of the Western Cape and the US Geological Survey.

Staff members undertook no less than 31 postgraduate training and research

programmes at masters and PhD levels, including community projects in the Makhado and Thulamela Municipalities as well as research work in other parts of South Africa. These include projects like the modelling for sustainable development of landfills in the Thulamela Municipality, an assessment of the potential and actual contribution of ecotourism to poverty alleviation in the Mutale Municipality and the participation of women in the planning, implementation and management of water services delivery in Limpopo.

Other programmes included the transition to organic fruit cropping agro-ecosystems and restoring soil fertility through making compost in Macadamia orchards.

Publications, seminars and workshops

Staff members published in various publications that included articles by Mr Krystufek, Mr Baxter, Mr Haberl, Mr Zima and Ms Buzan on the Systematics and biogeography of the Mozambique thicket rat, *Grammomys cometes* in the Eastern Cape in *J. Mammal.* Mr Taylor, Ms Maree, Mr Sandwyk, Mr Baxter, Mr Ramugondo and Mr Rambau published an article on Ghost species and the role of ontogeny in speciation and species recognition of South African laminate-toothed rats in *J. Zool, London*.

In the year under review staff members presented papers at various conferences. Dr Gumbo presented a paper on Algal toxins at the 13th international conference on harmful algae in Hong Kong, Prof Ogola presented a paper on Climate change: Scientific Evidence, Potential Impacts and Responses at the International Conference on Climate Change in Polokwane, while Prof Dayomi presented a paper on The planning process and hazard-mitigation planning, at the Disaster Risk Management Summit in the Vhembe district.

Community outreach programmes

The School participated in various community based research activities in the Nzhelele-Makhado area, like investigating the adequacy of water supply to meet the water demand in Siloam village, determining the physical and chemical water quality parameters, sources of potential pollution, and socio-economic impacts of pollution and remediation of pollution in the village.





Collaboration and linkages

On the international front, the School has a working relationship with the Copperbelt University in Zambia, the University of California in Santa Cruz in the USA as well as with the USA Geological Survey and the World Health Organization in Geneva.

Locally, the School collaborated with the Mining Qualifications Authority, the Universities of the Free State and the Witwatersrand as well as with the Departments of Water Affairs and Forestry, Minerals and Energy, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Local Government, the Water Resource Commission, the Council for Geoscience and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

Mr Sinthumule attended a three-month course at the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation in Enschede, Holland, in remote sensing and geographic information systems, while Mr Boshomane successfully completed a masters programme in the same discipline at the same institute.



School of Health Sciences

The School of Health Sciences provides community and outcomes-based education of an interdisciplinary and multi-sectional nature, aimed at preparing competent, critically thinking, proactive and culture sensitive practitioners capable of meeting the health needs of the local people.

It strives to improve, promote and maintain the health status and quality of life of the community. It also strives to develop, build and maintain health care standards in society, through a problem-centred, project-driven curriculum in partnership with the community.

The School consists of four departments - The Departments of Advanced Nursing Science, Public Health, Nutrition and Psychology – and the Centre for Biokinetics, Recreation and Sport Sciences.



The School reviewed its curriculum for seven undergraduate programmes. The module sequence was rearranged according to themes and levels of study while disciplines were integrated in line with the requirements of the problem-based approach. However, the content of the programmes remained the same as the approved qualifications by the statutory bodies of the South African Nursing Council or the Health Professional Council of South Africa.

The implementation of problem-based learning processes has been a success. This is evidenced by the introduction of block books and tutor guides, the examinations conducted at the end of every block to allow students to proceed to the next block as well as workshops by problem-based learning experts from the Netherlands.

Publications, seminars and workshops

Staff members published articles, abstracts and chapters in 43 publications and made presentations at 29 conferences.

These included two chapters in the Community Nutrition Textbook for South Africa by Mr Gericke, Mr Wentzel-Viljoen, Mr Maunder and Prof Mbhenyane.

Dr Penpid, Prof Peltzer and Dr Igumbor published an article Involvement of teachers, parents and community in life skills and sex education in South African secondary schools, in the African journal for physical, health education, recreation and dance.

During the year under review staff members of the Centre for Biokinetics, Recreation and Sport Science undertook various research projects. These included topics such as dietary intakes and physical activity patterns and risks of hypertension, overweight and obesity of rural African children in the Tshannda Village and physical education as a tool for developing public health and social skills. This project was funded by the National Research Foundation, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the Swedish Research Council.



"We develop, build and maintain health care standards in society, through a problem-centred, project-driven curriculum in partnership with the community."

***Prof Xikombiso Mbhenyane
Dean: School of Health Sciences***



Community outreach programmes

Various programmes were undertaken, including a malaria programme of the Department of Health and Social Development and sexual health workshops conducted at the Mutale clinic, the Marude school, the Mphambo Health Centre and the Malamulele Faith Mission Church.

Community-based learning for nursing students was conducted in the Tshapasha, Ngudza, Xigalo and Kurhuleni villages.

Prof Sodi chaired four professional board sittings for the Department of Psychology's inspection teams that inspected the Free State Psychiatric Hospital Complex, the Helen Joseph Hospital and the Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Coronation Hospital. He also sits on a task team of the Department of Correctional Services to establish national psychological centres of expertise in that department.

In 2008 the Centre for Biokinetics, Recreation and Sport Science assisted with the identification of athletes' talent, the assessment of the physical fitness of athletes for various competitions and an advisory service on sport development for the Limpopo Academy of Sport and Sports Commission.

Collaboration and linkages

Prof Khoza received a grant from the South Africa Netherlands Research Programme. The project, themed Stop TB campaign, yielded collaborations with the University of Limpopo, Unisa, the Department of Health and Social Development and the Maastricht University in the Netherlands.

Dr Gloria Zegarra of the Catholic University in

Mozambique benchmarked the implementation of problem based learning for that university's nursing degree programme.

A PhD student from the University of Texas in the USA, Ms Finnie, worked with four doctorate and masters degree students from Univen on the South Africa Netherlands Research Programme on the Alternatives in Development project.

Staff of the Centre for Biokinetics, Recreation and Sport Science were represented on the executive boards of the International Society for Comparative Physical Education and Sport and the International Council for Sport Science and Physical Education.

Dr Gerritsen of the Public Health Department was involved with the South African Cochrane Centre, focusing on trends in randomised controlled trials of malaria treatment and prevention in Africa, by providing support in the identification of the trails and the data extraction.

Staff members of the Department of Nutrition, together with eight masters students, attended the Biennial Nutrition Congress in Pretoria. A total of nine papers were presented, including a presentation by Mr Cherane and Prof Mbhenyane on the consumption of iron and folate supplements by pregnant women. These papers were published in the South African Clinical Journal of Nutrition.

The School presented a research day to give postgraduate students a platform to present their research findings.

Ms Mbhatsani and Mr Mabapa attended the World Bank conference in Cape Town, themed People, economy and politics, while Prof Mbhenyane presented papers at the Sugar and Health symposium, the Public Nutrition, Social Development and Womens' Health symposium and the South African Health Educator Association Conference.

From the Department of Public Health Prof Maluleke and Prof Akinsola attended, among others, the Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education problem-based learning workshop, the Phasa Conference in Cape Town and the Maastricht course on improved implementation of problem based learning. Prof Maluleke also attended the Network Towards Unity for Health conference in Colombia on Adapting health services and health professions education to local needs.

Staff members of the Department of Advanced Nursing Science attended and presented papers at 20 conferences and workshops. Among others, Prof Khoza attended the South Africa Netherlands Research Programme on Alternatives in Development and the Network Towards Unity for Health conference in Colombia. She was appointed as external programme evaluator by the North-West University's Mafikeng campus for its Bachelor of Nursing Science programme.

Prof Netshandama mentored 11 students from the University of Virginia doing research and community work at Univen and also presented at that university's Center for Global Health on ethical clearance protocols and community engagement and management structures at the University of Venda.



The Centre for Biokinetics, Recreation and Sport Science

Two students at the Centre, Sydwell Manthonsi and Kgomotso Motjane, represented South Africa in Wheelchair Tennis at the Paralympic Games in Beijing 2008.





School of Human and Social Sciences

The School of Human and Social Sciences offers a range of undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications in Social Work, International Relations, Development Studies, Media Studies, Music, Gender Studies, Youth Studies and Languages.

In the year under review staff members of the MER Mathivha Centre started teaching Tshivenda and Xitsonga at the Great Zimbabwe University. This follows an agreement between Univen and the Great Zimbabwe University. The first group of students wrote their examinations in July 2008.

The national Department of Science and Technology formed a Centre of Excellence at the School to establish a curriculum of Indigenous Knowledge Systems degree. This is in cooperation with the Universities of Limpopo and North-West.

Publications, seminars and workshops

In 2008 Dr Molapo contributed four chapters to four different history books, while Prof Thabede published a paper in a peer reviewed social work journal titled *The African worldview as the basis of practice in the helping professions*. Prof Thabede, Dr Mogorosi and Dr Mudau completed a study titled *Audit of funded crèches, poverty alleviation projects, and NGOs in the Mopani and Vhembe districts*. The study was commissioned by the Limpopo Provincial Department of Social Development.

Dr Rafapa published an article on the late Prof Es'kia Mphahlele's life and works, while Mr Hanisch published a book *Archaeology and oral traditions, another look at the history of Dzata*.

Mr Mabale, a lecturer in Political Studies, was offered a scholarship by the American Embassy to go to America during the winter vacation. Under the auspices of the Masupa Tsela project, Prof Thabede visited similar projects in Cuba and also attended a problem-based learning workshop at the University of Maastricht in Holland.

Prof Makgopa presented a paper "Transmission and archiving of oral



literature through the click of a button" at the 7th conference of the International Society for Oral Literature in Africa in Italy.

In an exchange programme, three Univen students attended first semester classes in Youth Studies at the Freiburg University in Germany, while three students from that university attended classes at Univen.

Ms Lufuno Nelwalani, a student in International Relations, won a month-long scholarship at the University of Arkansas in the USA to study civil rights movements and how they shape today's politics, while Mr Kgothatso Shai, a post graduate student in the Department of Development Studies, was awarded as the Africa Institute's most promising African researcher.

Community outreach programmes

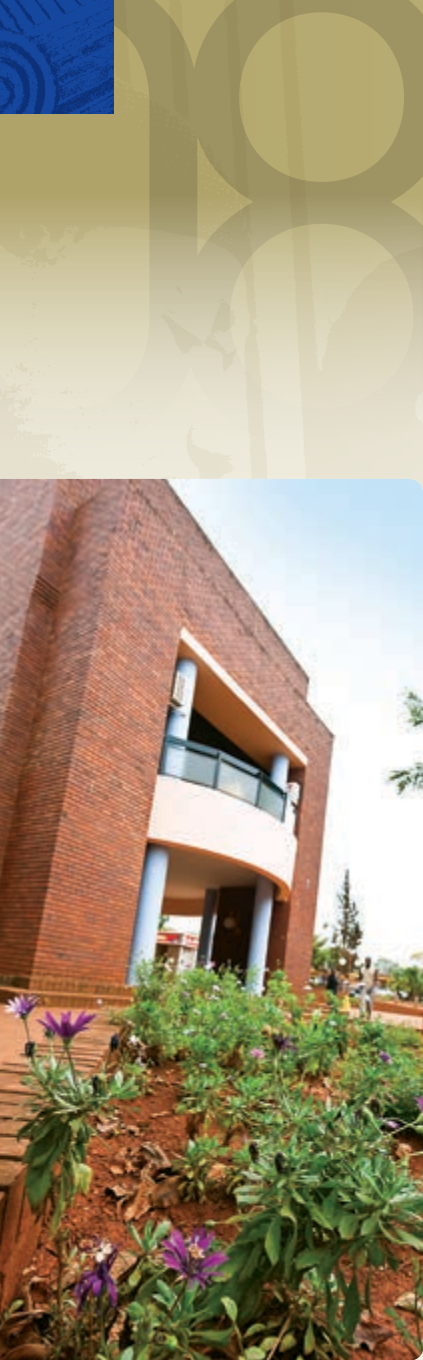
During the review year the indigenous music and oral history project and the project on indigenous food continued. The project entails fourteen community projects around the Thulamela and Makhado Municipalities. These include the Vhembe Ensemble from Mubvumoni, Mukumbani, Sekororo, Sekhukhune, Rotterdam and Dzumeri.

Certain staff members are external moderators and external examiners at universities and moderators for matric examinations and for Umalusi.



"The School is a Centre of Excellence of the national Department of Science and Technology for offering a degree in indigenous knowledge systems."

***Prof Thina Ngobeli
Dean: School of Human and Social Sciences***



School of Law

The School of Law employs appropriate learning methodologies and research in offering a range of qualifications in law and criminal justice that are responsive to the development needs of the Southern African region.

The School comprises four academic departments - Private Law, Jurisprudence, Criminal Justice and Public and International Law.

During the year under review student enrolment for the Law and Criminal Justice degrees totaled 1 392, compared to 1 523 in 2007.

Besides these academic departments, the School also houses two community outreach agencies that complement its academic departments - the Ismael Mahomed Centre for Human and People's Rights and the Legal Aid Clinic.

The Dean, Prof Mireku delivered a paper: Effective Techniques for teaching about other cultures and legal systems at the International Association of Law Schools Conference in Montreal, Canada.



The Department of Private Law

Publications, seminars and workshops

Advocate Malepe delivered a paper on social benefits for employees working for an independent contractor and a paper entitled Law and Language: Solutions for Multilingual Societies, at an international conference held in Portugal.

Advocate Rametsekisa presented a paper on The ban on virginity testing at an international conference held in Lesotho and published an article in the US-China Law Review on the pre-constitutional state of Customary Law in South Africa.

The Department of Jurisprudence

Publications, seminars and workshops

Advocate Joubert presented a paper during the Law Week conference entitled How the Children's Act impacts on the relationship of an unwed mother and her extra-marital child. He also presented a paper, on Transforming the Boni Mores measure in South African Family Law at the first National Family Law Colloquium, held at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

The Department of Criminal Justice

Publications, seminars and workshops

Prof Roelofse, funded by the Department of Justice, delivered a paper on community policing in South Africa at a seminar in Brazil. He participated in a panel discussion on xenophobia held at the University.

Mr Musekene and Mr Tshidada attended the conference on xenophobia in Pretoria, hosted by the Institute for Security Studies. Mr Tshidada attended a seminar on the dissolution of the Scorpions, organised by the same institute.



"We offer qualifications that are responsive to the development needs of the Southern African region."

*Prof Obeng Mireku
Dean: School of Law*

Prof Roelofse's article Vulnerability as a risk assessment tool in a business environment was published in the accredited Journal Acta Criminologica. He also coordinated a project An assessment of the criminal justice system in a post-apartheid South Africa - a joint research project with Dr Oliver and Mr Kgosimore of the University of Limpopo. The section on the South African Police Services was extracted as a separate report entitled An assessment of the police in a post-apartheid South Africa and submitted to the Crime Management and Information Centre.

The Department of Public and International Law

Publications, seminars and workshops

Adv Choma published two articles in the Journal of US-China Law Review 2008 - Environmental rights entrenched in the constitutions: a critique, The law and its interpretation play a role in the elimination of xenophobia: a South African case study. He delivered a paper Xenophobia and the law at the Department of Justice's workshop on xenophobia in Polokwane.

Mr Hagenmeier presented a paper entitled Defining the minimum essential levels of socio-economic rights at the international seminar on Comparative Law in Kuala Lumpur. He also delivered a paper International trade in legal services: admission rules for foreign attorneys in South Africa in the light of GATS at the International Association of Law Schools conference in Hamburg, Germany. Ms Lansink delivered a paper Migrant workers and non-discrimination in the workplace: an international law perspective, at the international conference on equality in the workplace at the University of Stellenbosch.

Adv Choma, Adv van der Walt, Ms Lansink, and Mr Hagenmeier each received the Univen Merit Award for Active Researcher for the previous year.



The Ismael Mahomed Centre for Human and Peoples' Rights

Staff members of the Department of Public Law are also responsible for the Ismael Mahomed Centre for Human and Peoples' Rights.

Various activities were presented at the Centre in 2008. These included the co-ordination of the Univen Human Rights Day celebrations, an address by Mrs Ngubani, Director of the South African Rural Women's Movement and organising a panel discussion on xenophobia by staff members and students from the Univen School of Law.

Other activities included organising Univen's participation in the 17th African Human Rights Moot Court in Pretoria and co-organising the launch of the Tshivenda translation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with the University of Cape Town.

The Legal Aid Clinic

The Legal Aid Clinic provides legal services to needy communities and clinical legal education to final year law students and candidate attorneys. In total 185 final year LLB students received training in the review year.

Funding by the Attorneys Fidelity Fund enabled final year students to undergo practical legal skill training at the Clinic, while the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, in partnership with the Association of Universities Legal Aid Institutions, funds the salaries of ten candidate attorneys and two mentors. Funding from OXFAM Australia enabled the Clinic to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS and the law for rural communities, schools, prisons and hospitals.





School of Management Sciences

In the essential programme portfolio review to restructure the University's curriculum, the majority of the School of Management Sciences' programmes were found to be relevant and viable. Furthermore, the School developed drafts for two three-year career focused diploma programmes in Travel Practice and Operations and Computer Applications for Small Business.

A final year student in Human Resource Management and Labour Relations, Mr Tshehla, was awarded the Mandela/Rhodes Scholarship to pursue postgraduate studies.

Ms Nkondo of the Department of Business Management trained at the Small Business Development programme at the Galilee College in Israel, while Ms Khohomela completed a moderators' course and is now an accredited Education, Training and Development Practices Sector Education Training Authority moderator.



Publications, seminars and workshops

During the 2008 reporting year Dr Vermaak of the Department of Public and Development Administration delivered a paper at the international Cultural Diversity and Social Inclusion conference in Townsville, Australia. The title of his presentation was Social Capital as a Mechanism for Socio-Economic Development among Agricultural Producers in the Vhembe District of South Africa.

Prof Oseifuah of the Accounting and Auditing Department presented a paper themed An Empirical Analysis of Sources of Finance for Small, Medium and Micro enterprises in the Vhembe District of Limpopo at the 5th African Finance Journal Conference in Cape Town.

Prof Gyekye attended a Higher Education South Africa seminar on Institutional Leadership and Management where issues relating to strategic planning, organising through the balanced scorecard, linking budgets to strategy and controlling were discussed.

Community outreach programmes

Staff from the Department of Public and Development Administration presented a six-month training course for 30 mid-level managers of the Mopani District Municipality. The course covered issues like local government, project and financial management and labour relations.

Ms Nethengwe and Prof Spencer of the Department of Tourism played an active role in the establishment of the new Vhembe District Tourism Forum, drafting its constitution and assisting with operational activities.

The Department of Business Information Systems continued to offer International Computer Driving Licence literacy training to members of the local community.



"In the essential programme portfolio review to restructure the University's curriculum, the majority of the School's programmes were found to be relevant and viable."

***Prof Agyapong Gyekye
Dean: School of Management
Sciences***



School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences

The School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences is committed to high quality programmes and strives to produce scholars in the field of science and technology. It is dedicated to the empowerment of the community it serves through excellence in teaching, research and community outreach. The School pursues and creates opportunities to render service to all role players.

The Department of Biochemistry

Dr van Driessel completed a PhD at the Sappi Biotechnology Centre, which is associated with the Department of Microbiology and Biochemistry at the University of the Free State. His main field of interest is biotechnology with a major emphasis on the use of bioreactors. He initiated collaborative research with Dr Foord of the Department of Zoology. He is also focusing on a new research initiative on the use of activated sludge.

One student registered for an MSc degree, while another is finalising his MSc research and five students were busy with the honours degree programme.



The Department of Botany

Research continued on the conservation of biodiversity, ethno-botany and Interactive Knowledge Stack, while the department initiated a drive to systematically collect and curate plant specimens for the University's herbarium in some parts of the province.

Other research projects included the physiology of sprouting and its ecological implications in savanna woodlands at the Nylsvley Research Station at Mookgophong and the biology and ecology of *Androstachys johnsonii* and *Colophospermum mopane* in Limpopo. Furthermore, the sustainability of some indigenous medicinal plants traded in the Venda region were researched, indigenous medicinal plants used in treatment of tick-infected wounds investigated and the classification of plant communities in the Nylsvlei Nature Reserve assessed.

The community project which specifically gives assistance to secondary schools that come to the department to be helped with experiments and the teaching of difficult aspects of biology, continued. Assistance of this nature is also carried out at the Vuwani Science Resource Centre. Some teaching members of the department teach Grade 12 learners at secondary schools during weekends.

Publications, seminars and workshops

In 2008 various staff members attended the annual South African Association of Botanists Congress.

No less than eight staff members presented papers at various conferences. These included a paper by Mr Ligavha-Mbelengwa on the assessment of plant species diversity on and off mature stands of *Androstachys johnsonii* and *Colophospermum mopane* at the Biodiversity Research Symposium in Kimberley and by Mr Tshisikhawe on the importance of indigenous knowledge in rural development and conservation at the Indigenous Plant Use Forum in Graaf-Reinett.



"We empower the community we serve through excellence in teaching, research and community outreach."

***Prof Jan Crafford
Dean: School of Mathematical
and Natural Sciences***

The Department of Chemistry

The Department of Chemistry promotes the view of Chemistry as a human enterprise and not solely as a rigid body of knowledge. The available expertise and contacts with other universities enable the department to continue developing a variety of courses.

In 2008 collaboration in water quality programmes, lithium ion batteries and natural products research continued, while research for hloglucinol again received funding from the National Research Foundation. The project is being extended to include research on chromone studies.

Two international National Research Foundation and Department of Science and Technology supported bilateral research projects were started. These are an application for a grant to research organic additives for lithium ion cells under the South Africa/China agreement on cooperation in science and technology and another application to research the isolation and structure elucidation of bioactive substances from South African endophytic fungi under the South Africa/Germany joint science and technology research agreement.

Two honours students were recruited for the natural products Phloroglucinol research programme. Two MSc students graduated, whilst two others were still working on their dissertations.

Publications, seminars and workshops

In the year under review staff members published in 19 accredited publications and conference programmes. These included Prof Mammino's paper on Green chemistry as a central area for interfaces between humanities and sciences at the conference on the relationships between humanities and sciences at the University of St Petersburg in Florida, USA as well as her chapter on Teaching Chemistry with and without external representations in professional environments with limited resources in Visualization: Theory and Practice in Science Education.

Prof Ramaite attended the International Training Programme on Natural Products: Botanicals, Nutraceuticals and Medicinal and Aromatic Compounds conference at the State University of New Jersey in the USA. The trip was funded by a National Research Foundation grant.



Prof Van Ree served on the International Advisory Board of the 10th international symposium on Biotechnology, Transition Metal Complexes and Catalysis, held in Zhengzhou in China. He is also a member of the chemistry division committee of the SA Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns and of the editorial board of the SA Tydskrif vir Natuurwetenskap en Tegnologie.

Prof Mammino served on the international advisory board of the 4th International Conference on Green and Sustainable Chemistry and the 2nd Asian-Oceanian Conference on Green and Sustainable Chemistry held in Beijing in China. Staff members consult to various branches of the chemical industry, offering technical, modelling and analytical services.

Community outreach programmes

The department conducted various chemistry experiments for local secondary schools and offered assistance to learners involved in projects for young scientists.

The Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics

During the year under review the number of postgraduate students increased, a clear indication that the reviewed programmes are attracting students. The curriculum reviewing is ongoing with a revised MSc programme on the cards for 2010.

Some modules like Applied Mathematics are now attracting large numbers of students registering in this discipline during the review year.

Research continued in 2008, particularly in specialisation areas like Combinatorics, Numerical Analysis, Computational Fluid Dynamics, Epidemiological Modeling, Graph Theory, Financial Mathematics and Mathematics Education.

Publications, seminars and workshops

Staff members published in various recognised publications, such as Mr Shateyi, Mr Sibanda and Mr Motsa's article Inviscid instability analysis of a reactive boundary-layer flow in the JP Journal of Heat and Mass Transfer, as well as Mr Makasu's article on a problem of optimal stopping in mathematical finance in the Journal of Interdisciplinary Mathematics.

Prof Crafford delivered a paper at the Southern Africa Mathematical Sciences Association Conference in Maputo, Mozambique on Thermal radiation and buoyancy effects on heat and mass transfer over a semi-infinite stretching surface with suction and blowing.

Community outreach programmes

During the year under review the computer literacy programme continued while Dr Moyo supervised the Olympiad student from Thohoyandou who represented the country in the 2009 competitions.



The Department of Microbiology

The Department of Microbiology provides teaching and training at undergraduate and postgraduate levels that provides a solid knowledge base and skills relevant to the labour market.

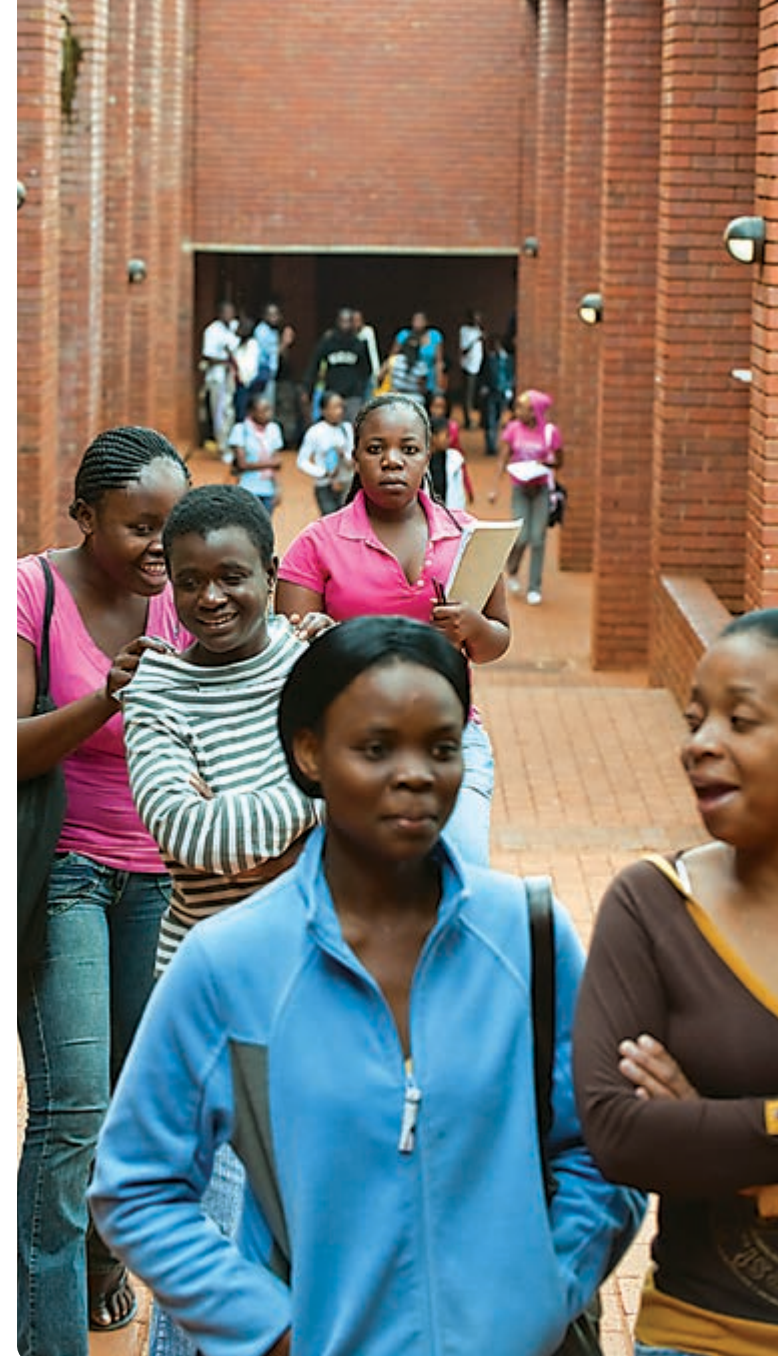
During the year under review two PhD, 12 BSc honours and three MSc students were enrolled in the postgraduate programme.

The Department received research funding for 12 projects from various donors. These included grants from the National Department of Health for research into HIV drug resistance in Limpopo, from the South African AIDS Vaccine Initiative for research into HIV diversity and the correlation of immune protection and from the Biotechnology Partnership for Development for research about the anti-HIV activity of a local medicinal plant.

Other grants were from the National Research Foundation and the Water Research Commission. These were for improving the health-related microbiological quality of drinking water.

New grants included those from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to study the etiology, risk factors and interactions of enteric infections and malnutrition and its consequences for child health and development. This multi-site consortium study includes South Africa, Brazil, Nepal, Tanzania, Peru, Pakistan, Bangladesh and India. Investigations at the South Africa site will also look into the relationship between HIV infection and child growth. The project will be coordinated through the Foundation of the National Institute of Health in the USA, with the University of Virginia as the collaborating US institution.

The Department fostered linkages with various bodies like the agreement with Elevation Biotech in Johannesburg for material transfer, a student and staff exchange agreement with the Center for Global Health at the University of Virginia in the USA, a research agreement on cell biology



and drug resistance in HIV-1 subtype C with the Thaler Center for AIDS and Human Retrovirus Research, and research collaboration with MEDUNSA and the University of Pretoria on HIV genetic diversity and viral analysis of water and food samples.

Prof Bessong was a guest speaker at the Microbiology and Global Health Seminar series by invitation of the Thaler Center for AIDS and Human Retrovirus Research, the Center for Global Health and the Graduate Program in Microbiology, Immunology and Infectious Diseases at the University of Virginia in the USA. He was appointed as technical advisor to the International Foundation for Science in Sweden and as chair for the session on traditional medicines and HIV at the 6th World Workshop on Oral Health and Disease in AIDS in Beijing.

Prof Potgieter chaired a session on diarrhoeal diseases at the 27th African Health Sciences Congress in Mauritius, and presented on water and health research at the African Union-European Union Summit in Bordeaux, France as well as at the IRISH AID discussions in Pretoria.

Publications, seminars and workshops

In the year under review the department published in no less than 13 publications. These included Prof Bessong's article on Issues surrounding herbal therapies for AIDS in endemic regions in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and Mr Du Preez, Mr Conroy, Mr Wright Dr Moyo, Prof Potgieter and Mr Gundry's article on The use of ceramic water filtration in the prevention of diarrhoeal disease in the American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Health.

Staff members attended some 20 conferences, including the International Symposium on Natural Products in Botswana, the International AIDS Conference in Mexico and the International Water Association's World Water Conference in Vienna, Austria.

Community outreach programmes

The Department was involved in a water, health and sanitation programme with the villages of Tshapasha and Tshibvumo, while continuous water tests were done for the Kutama Sinthumule Maximum Security Prison in Makhado.

Both Prof Bessong and Prof Potgieter served as external examiners at the



Universities of Fort Hare, Johannesburg, Limpopo, North West and the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. They also reviewed for scientific journals like the African Journal of Microbiology Research, the African Journal of Biotechnology, the Journal of Medical Virology, Water SA and the Chemistry and Oncology Journal.

The Department hosted various visitors from abroad, including Dr Sharon Kim and Dr Luther Bartlet of the School of Medicine at the University of Virginia in the USA, for HIV related research and Dr Oriel Thekiso of the Obihiro University of Agriculture in Japan, for research on the molecular diagnostics of parasitic infections.



The Department of Physics

The Department of Physics offers high quality programmes to enhance teaching and learning in the fields of science and technology. Furthermore, it contributes to the advancement of multidisciplinary research to enhance the development of the region and surrounding communities.

In 2008 six honours students were enrolled, of which two have graduated. There was one registered student each for the MSc and PhD programmes.

Promising linkages with other national research centres such as the Hermanus Magnetic Observatory and iThemba labs have been initiated. This is one way of retaining the best students who would register for graduate degree programmes but carry out their experiments at the centres.

Publications, seminars and workshops

During the year under review staff members and students participated in the World Space Week celebrations, organised by the South African Council for Space Affairs at the University of Limpopo.

Community outreach programmes

Staff members participated in the matric learners intervention through the Vuwani Science Resource Centre, supported by both the University and the Department of Science and Technology. Cooperation in other outreach programmes included the Univen-Nissan project and the Women in Physics SA programme.

The Science Foundation Programme

The University draws the majority of its students from previously disadvantaged schools. The School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences identified the need for a strong foundation programme, hence the presentation of a Science Foundation Programme in the first year of the extended degree programmes.

This programme meets the criteria of the national Department of Education and is divided into the Science Foundation Programme and the Science Enrichment Foundation Programme.

The Science Foundation Programme consists of 12 modules and runs for a full academic year. It facilitates the academic development of students whose prior learning had been adversely affected by educational or social inequalities.

The Science Enrichment Foundation Programme is intended for students who have achieved a certain level of competency but still need some foundational provision to successfully complete their degree programmes within the stipulated time.

Students follow eight modules from the foundational provision along with a few other modules of the first year degree programme. All the students who are admitted into the foundation programmes must be registered for one of the School of Science's qualifications as approved by the Department of Education.

In the review year 150 students were registered for the Science Foundation Programme and 130 students for the Science Enrichment Foundation Programme.

Students who were admitted in 2007 and who had not completed some modules in the foundation programme were also allowed to repeat those modules. However, in line with the capping on students numbers, the intake in the Science Foundation Programme was considerably reduced in 2008. The average pass rate for 2008 was about 80%.

The construction of the new laboratories for the programme was completed in the review year, while the teaching and learning materials - developed by staff - were peer-reviewed.



The Department of Statistics

Compared to 2007, student enrolment increased slightly in the year under review and came to 85 for statistics majors and 465 for service courses. Overall pass rates for statistics majors stood at over 55%, while the pass rate for service modules was nearly 65%. Two PhD students were registered.

Publications, seminars and workshops

Prof Misi presented a paper Modeling a Statistical Society at the Statistical Association's annual conference in Pretoria, while Ms Mulaudzi and Mr Tshisikhawe delivered a paper Changes in Demographic characteristics and living conditions in Limpopo Province at the 3rd annual Population Association of Southern Africa conference in Durban.

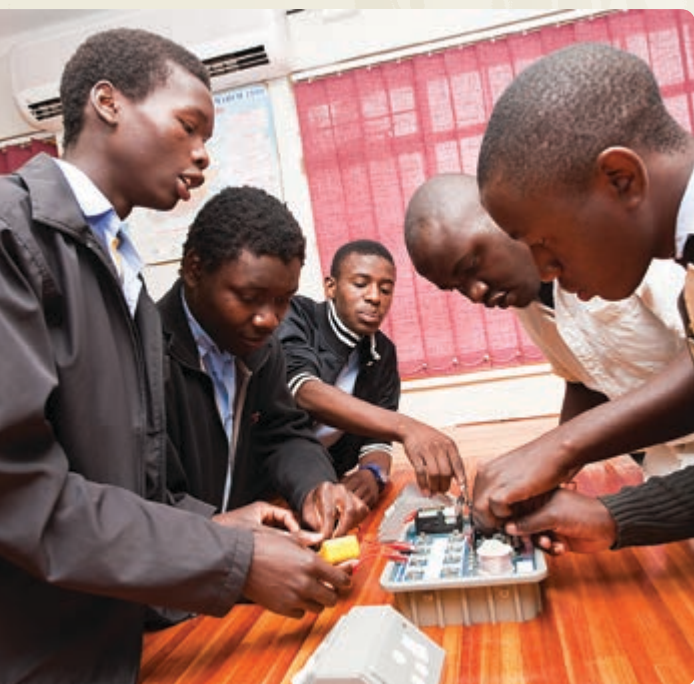
Dr Acheampong-Boateng, Mr Mikasi and Prof Amey published an article on growth performance and carcass characteristics of feedlot cattle fed on different levels of macadamia oil cake in Tropical Animal Health Production, while Ms Mushaphi, Prof Mbhenyane, Prof Khoza and Prof Amey published an article on infant feeding practices of mothers and the nutritional status of infants in the Vhembe District in the South African Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

Reports on service delivery in the Thulamela Municipality, a feasibility study for a detergent factory in the Molemole Local Municipality, an audit of crèches, poverty alleviation projects and nongovernmental organisations in the Vhembe and Mopani Districts and a baseline study for the Limpopo Agricultural Development Agency were also undertaken.

The Vuwani Science Resource Centre

The rurally located Vuwani Science Resource Centre serves as one of the community outreach avenues of the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences. The science and computer laboratories play an important role in enhancing the rural learners' perception of science and technology. Since most of the schools in this region do not have any laboratory facilities, they rely on the facilities and services provided by the Centre for hands-on experience. This serves to enhance the theoretical knowledge they gained during academic tuition. The activities of the Centre include computer training, offering laboratory facilities and exhibition space and venues.

During the year under review the Centre's computer training programme attracted nurses, teachers, traffic officers, government officers, university students and unemployed people. About 135 people enrolled, earning revenue of R87 650.



About 3 000 learners from schools in the region visited the Centre during the review year, mainly to obtain practical lessons in Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Some staff members assisted in running some of the outreach activities. More than 30 science exhibits were hosted. Various organisations like the African National Congress and its Youth and Women's League, the Vuwani Civic Organisation, the Vuwani Steering Committee for Housing, the Department of Education and the Abundant Life Christian Centre used the Centre's facilities.

A grant of R200 000 from the Department of Science and Technology was used to buy some exhibits from the Unizul Science Centre and the North-West University's Science Centre.

Activities during the review year included the deployment of three interns each from the National Science and Technology Forum and the National Research Foundation and teaching support, content revision, school visits, hands-on laboratory training, participation support in the



Science Expo competition, teachers' upgrading as well as career guidance via funding from the Department of Science and Technology.

Other activities included hosting National Science Week, visited by more than 1 000 learners from 15 schools and funded by the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement, and providing content revision and pre-exam coaching to the grade 12 Science and Mathematics learners of the nine schools in the Kagiso Trust-Beyers Naudé school support programme.

A volunteer from Japan assisted the Centre to build new exhibits through the South Africa-Japan bilateral agreement.

Funding from Nissan South Africa provided the Centre with two vehicles and laboratory equipment to extend science and technology training to communities.

The Department of Zoology

A total of six postgraduate students – three honours and three masters – were registered in 2008.

As part of a Unesco funded programme FETWATER, the Department was involved in the development of a structured MSc (Aquatic Health) degree that is offered by the Department of Zoology at the University of Johannesburg.

Research funding was obtained through the National Research Foundation's Thuthuka Grant, the Centre for Invasion Biology, the Water Research Commission and Research and Publications.

The research on the Shingwedzi River and the conservation planning research were completed.

Dr Foord was appointed as a core team member at the Centre of Excellence for Invasion Biology at the University of Stellenbosch. He was also a team leader in the South African National Survey of Arachnids. He was appointed as reviewer for the international journals *African Zoology* and *Journal of African Ecology*.

Mr Fouché was appointed as reviewer for the international journal *African Journal of Aquatic Science* and for the national journal *Die Suid Afrikaanse Tydskrif vir Wetenskap en Tegnologie*.

Publications, seminars and workshops

Dr Foord published the Cladistic analysis of the family Hersiliidae (Arachnida, Araneae) of the afrotropical region with the first records of *Murricia*, and the description of a new genus, *Prima*, from Madagascar in the *Journal of Afrotropical Zoology*. Together with Mr Mafadza, Ms Dippenaar-Schoeman and Mr Van Rensburg,

they published the Micro-scale heterogeneity of spiders (Arachnida: Araneae) in the Soutpansberg, South Africa: a comparative survey and inventory in representative habitats in *African Zoology*.

Dr Foord also presented at the 9th Colloquium of the African Arachnological Society in Limpopo, the international conference on climate change in Polokwane and the Charles Elton Symposium at the University of Stellenbosch.

Mr Fouché and Mr Vlok presented at the 6th Annual Science Networking meeting in Skukuza and the River Health Champions symposium in Pretoria.





Support services

Library Services

Visitors to the Univen Library accessed over 8% more books in 2008 than in the year before, despite the nearly 10% decline in registered students. The increase was in almost all categories of library users.

During the review year nearly 101 000 books were issued, more than 35 000 full-text downloads were made from electronic databases and 1 500 inter-library loan searches were done.

Student access to electronic resources increased dramatically when a PetroSA donation of R548 000 made the purchase of 50 computers and five heavy-duty printers possible.

The Department of Student Academic Support and Counselling

The Student Academic Support and Counselling Department provides services to enhance academic success, career development and personal growth.

In the review year the department undertook research to improve the quality of life of disabled students on campus. The research was funded by the Higher Education Quality Committee to the tune of R70 000 and done in collaboration with the Quality Assurance and Promotion Directorate.

The Minister of Education approved funding of more than R6,3 million for infrastructure on campus to assist disabled people. This included more than R4,4 million for a new building for the Disabled Student Unit, more than R1,4 million for assistive devices and about R425 000 for equipment and furniture.



Other support came through the National Student Financial Aid Scheme to purchase nine wheelchairs, 50 computers, 50 printers and 54 Dolphin Mercury pens.

The Disabled Student Unit provided services to 230 students with various disabilities. One of the key functions of the unit is the training of students in the use of advanced adaptive technology. An audit entailed, among others, screening to ensure that each participant produced supporting documents from a licensed health professional competent to diagnose the disability.

This process culminated in staff making personal contact with students of various disabilities.

Students screened

<i>Nature of disability</i>	<i>Number of students</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Bipolar-mood disorder	3	2
Blind	26	14
Cerebral Palsy	2	1
Epilepsy	2	1
Hearing impaired	4	2
Multi-disability	2	1
Partially sighted albinism	23	13
Partially sighted	40	22
Physical disabled in wheelchair	8	4
Physically disabled	73	40
Total	183	100%

Tasked by the Vice-Chancellor, the Department also investigated forms of discrimination experienced by students on campus. The findings revealed that Univen students experienced discrimination in the areas of disability, race, religion, HIV & AIDS, language, nationality, ethnicity, political affiliation and gender.



Counseling and therapy services

Counseling and therapy services were offered to students who experienced challenges that negatively impacted on their lives and their academic performance. Common issues were found to be reactions to loss such as bereavement, relationship breakups and diagnosis of chronic diseases including HIV & AIDS, relationship difficulties and subsequent gender-based violence and unplanned pregnancies and the decision to undergo an abortion. Other identified issues were depression and anxiety, drug and alcohol abuse, academic and social adjustment and financial problems.

Student training and development

Various assistance programmes were conducted during the year under review. The peer helpers programme trains students to provide support to other students. In total 25 peer helpers were trained. The highlight of the 2008 activities was the Celebrating Diversity festival, themed Do not judge a man before you walked in his shoes. The Univen community celebrated differences through music, dance, poetry and storytelling. The aim is to make this an annual event.

For the student professional development programme, 25 honours and 4th year Psychology students were trained in preparation for their experiential learning or masters programme selection. This training focused on self-awareness and understanding of both explanatory and applicatory models in counseling practice.



Career development and graduate placement services

These services help students to make choices in accordance with their interests, personalities, abilities and life values.

In 2008 some 1 400 consultations took place. The majority of about 1 200 consultations were career information and career guidance enquiries, 110 were bursary information enquiries and about 120 were job skills enquiries.

Senior students use the service the most and it will now be actively marketed to first year students.

Networking for Univen graduates was also done with prospective employers. The likes of Nedbank, the National Prosecuting Authority and the Departments of Foreign Affairs, Minerals and Energy, Social Development and the National Treasury participated in the Univen 2008 graduate recruitment programme.

The Career Development and Graduate Placement Unit hosted a delegation from the Konkola Copper Mine in Zambia who presented career opportunities, while Kangra Coal, Goldfields and Shaft Sinkers were requested to provide experiential learning opportunities for final year students.

Publications, seminars and workshops

Staff members published in various publications. Ms Mbuva published an article on the psychometric properties of a Venda version of the sixteen personality factor questionnaire in the South African Journal of Psychology. Dr Selepe published an article on grief counseling and community intervention practices in the South African Journal of Folklore Studies and one on the role of African indigenous churches in grief counseling in the African Journal of Indigenous Knowledge Systems. Mr Sikhwari published an article on the relationship between affective factors and the academic achievement of students at the University of Venda in the South African Journal of Higher Education.





The Quality Assurance and Promotion Directorate

Because of the University's new mandate and the pending Higher Education Quality Committee institutional audits in September 2010, it remains critical to engage the University community about the process and its importance.

The University's quality assurance systems are dictated by the Higher Education Quality Committee audit and programme accreditation criteria and ISO 9000.

To meet these criteria, the University's standards of academic and administrative performance have been raised to meet national and international standards. To achieve this, quality assurance strategies at all levels were implemented, monitoring and evaluation systems improved and performance management systems, employment contracts and rewards and penalty systems implemented.



Community outreach programmes

Community engagement activities focused on school outreach programmes, with special emphasis on career guidance. Schools visited included Raluswielo High, Thohoyandou Technical High, Khwevha High and Ralson Tshinanne High.

The department also participated in the Career Guidance Weekend Expo at the Madzivhandila Agricultural College, organised by the Limpopo National Council for the Blind. The expo informed learners with disabilities about career opportunities and bursaries.

During the year under review collaborations were fostered with the Vhembe Future Education and Training College to provide guidelines for academic support for students with disabilities. Training in adapted technology was provided to teachers at the Tshilidzini Special School.



Teacher Education Accreditation

The Higher Education Quality Committee awarded the University of Venda conditional accreditation in the three teacher education programmes - the Advanced Certificate in Education, the Postgraduate Certificate in Education and the masters in Education Management.

The Department of Teacher Education prepared improvement plans to meet the Committee's requirement for full accreditation, which were submitted in August 2008.

After evaluation the masters degree programme was accredited. While the short term conditions for both the Advanced Certificate in Education and the Postgraduate Certificate in Education were met, certain long term conditions needed to be adapted and a progress report submitted to the committee by April 2009.

The Directorate analysed the alignment of all the Univen undergraduate programmes to the Higher Education Qualification Framework

The University currently has 103 active undergraduate programmes ranging from certificates, diplomas, bachelor's degrees and four-year professional degrees. Thirty-one of these were not aligned to the framework. Meetings were held with the Deans about the programmes that were not aligned and it was suggested that the University should engage the Department of Education as certain programmes might be phased out or recurriculated. The process is continuing.

The Directorate cooperated with the Department of Student Academic Support and Counselling to improve the experience of disabled people at the University.

Publications, seminars and workshops

The Directorate facilitated school-specific workshops on the programme portfolio review that focused on preparing self-evaluation reports for the review exercise. In addition, Prof Bayona and Dr Makhafola facilitated two workshops on developing career-focused programmes.

The Higher Education Quality Committee funded a project to revamp quality

management systems at the University to the tune of R447 000. Findings were presented to the Committee during a workshop held at the University of Zululand.

The Directorate is geared for the implementation of the 2009/10 student quality literacy project and the preparation for the Higher Education Quality Committee institutional audits.





The Department of Communications, Marketing and Institutional Advancement

The University's image has improved considerably over the period under review. This has come about as a result of both the University's proactive approach in responding to media on critical issues and by the restructuring and transformation process initiated by the University management.

The Department participated in more than 45 public relations activities aimed at maintaining the image of the University.

The Media and Publications section plays a major role in informing and educating the University staff and students and its strategic stakeholders. It caters for the communication needs of the University's business areas by producing a wide range of products such as news releases, flyers, brochures, posters and banners.

Nendila, the University's monthly newsletter, has been one of the most powerful communication tools. It is also posted on the University website. The Department distributed 80 000 copies of the newsletter, produced and distributed the 2007 annual report as well as 50 000 student brochures and other printed material.

The Department also uses advertising to publicise or inform strategic stakeholders about the programmes and services rendered by the University. In the year under review more than 60% of prospective students reacted to these advertisements.

Through its Schools Liaison section, the Department participated in no less than 15 career exhibitions and shows. These included exhibitions at the Mpumalanga Department of Education, in the Gert Sibande District, in Secunda, Embhalenhle, Mayflower, Witbank, Enhlazneni District, Bushbuckridge and Kwamhlanga. The University also participated in a career exhibition at the Philadelphia School for the Disabled.

The flagship careers exhibition of the University - the University of Venda Careers Exhibition and Information Association - in partnership with the Vhembe District Department of Education's Curriculum and Support Services, drew more than 21 000 learners from 262 secondary schools. The exhibition exposed learners to different fields of study offered at various institutions of higher learning within the country. More than 20 institutions participated in the exhibition.



Attendees to the exhibition at the Khoro Conference Centre in Thohoyandou were financially assisted by the John Mudau Foundation, founded by Dr John Mudau of the Department of Social Work at Univen.

The Alumni and Convocation section, in partnership with the Agriculture Alumni Association, hosted a symposium on campus. The section also successfully solicited awards from alumni for the best performing students, presented during the graduation ceremonies.

Among others, the Functions and Visitors section hosted the South Africa Tertiary Institutions Choral Association festival on campus.

Univen Radio continued to play a crucial role of informing, educating and entertaining the University of Venda public. The station, with a listenership

of 169 000, broadcasts in English, Tshivenda, Sepedi and Xitsonga. It has a 50 km broadcasting radius that covers the Vhembe and Mopani district municipalities, the Mutale local municipality, areas north of the Kruger National Park, the greater Giyani municipality area and the Makhado local municipality.

The University of Venda Foundation's office in Sandton, Johannesburg visited a number of potential donors and funders to establish and maintain strategic relationships and to solicit resources.

The Department of Human Resources

The Department is responsible for the provision, development and maintenance of staff. The demand for critical skills and the fierce competition in the labour market were major constraints in attracting and retaining adequate staff during the year under review.

Notwithstanding, the University managed to attract and retain a limited number of the critical mass of a diverse mix of highly skilled and competent local and international human capital in various occupational fields.

Recruited academic and support staff

<i>Category</i>	<i>Number</i>
Vice-Chancellor	1
Professors	3
Senior lecturers	7
Lecturers	17
Junior lecturers	11
Academic support staff members	32
Projects appointments	14

The strategic needs created by the labour market challenges called for continuous professional development and skills acquisition to keep abreast of

new knowledge and innovations. Consequently, the University implemented various training and development courses

Short courses

<i>Course</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Number of participants</i>
Higher Education Learnership and Management	Deans	2
Financial Management	Heads of departments	2
Managing People	Senior manager	1
Webmaster	Academic	5
Personal Assistant workshop	Admin staff	1
Internal Audit	Academic staff	1
Workplace Skills Plan workshop	Admin staff	2
Introduction to Agricultural Research Council Geometry Information Systems	Academic staff	1



Skills programmes

<i>Course</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Number of participants</i>
Transforming Procurement	Admin staff	1
Asset and Disposal Management	Admin staff	1
Project Management	Management	1
Electronic Records Management	Admin staff	20
Office Admin Skills	Admin staff	1
Advanced Professional Management Programme	Admin staff	1
HIV/AIDS	Academic & admin staff	20 - 6 academic & 14 admin

Learnerships

<i>Course</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Number of participants</i>
Human Resources Learnership Level 4	Admin	5

Internships

<i>Course</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Number of participants</i>
Finance	Admin	4
IT	Admin	4
Sports	Admin	1



Workplace agreements/Experiential training

<i>Course</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Number of participants</i>
Teaching practice	B.ED Students	11

Education, Training and Development Practitioners - SETA bursaries

<i>Course</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Number of participants</i>
IT	Students	1
Accounting	Students	11
Education	Students	10
Maths and Science	Students	3

Adult Basic Education and Training

<i>Level</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Number of participants</i>
Level 1	Service staff	27
Level 3	Service staff	12
Level 4	Service staff	5

Improved qualifications

<i>Qualifications obtained</i>	<i>Category of staff</i>	<i>Number of participants</i>
Doctorate	Academic	6
Masters	Academic -1 Admin - 3	4
B degrees	Academic -1 Admin - 1	2
Postgraduate diploma	Academic	1
Advanced diploma	Admin	1
Diploma	Admin	1



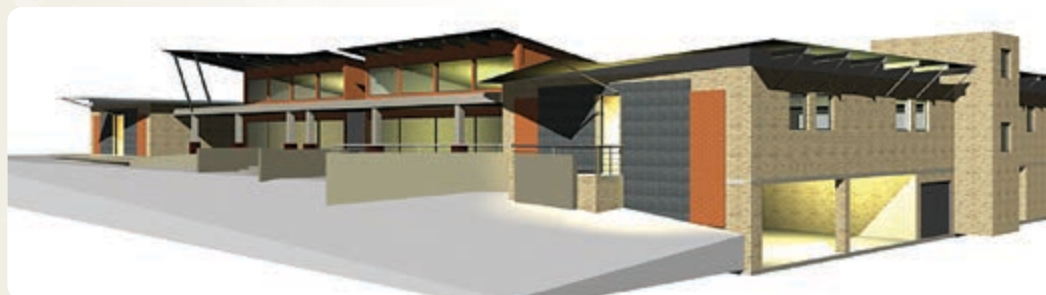
Remission of fees

<i>Qualifications funded</i>	<i>Category of staff</i>	<i>Number of participants</i>
PhD	Academic	13
Masters	Admin - 15 Academic - 7	22
Honours	Admin - 12 Service - 1	13
B Degrees	Admin - 10 Academic - 2	12
Diplomas	Admin - 12 Academic - 1	13
Certificates	Admin (5)	5

The Department of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Management

Completed projects

Funding from the Ministry of Education resulted in various recovery plan projects being completed in the year under review. These included five student residences, in time for the 2008 academic year.



In addition, 45 staff houses were renovated to the value of R15 million. Various other buildings housing the School of Education, the Student Representative Assembly, the then School of Music and the School of Environmental Sciences were also renovated.

Maintenance, grounds, security and cleaning

Campus maintenance improved satisfactorily during the review year. Waste removal improved tremendously, enhancing health and safety on campus. Among others, work on high mast lighting, road markings, armed response, security and alarms was well managed.

New infrastructure design

Following a due tender process, a professional team for the development of the new student administration building, the new Life Sciences building, a new lecture theatre and extensions to other buildings was appointed.

The Department of Information Technology Services

The Department of Information Technology Services implemented an active directory whereby all student information as IT users is recorded.

The project also involved the provision of Live@edu exchange labs as an e-mail solution for students. This hosted service is managed by Microsoft on a 24/7 basis.

User identification codes and e-mail addresses for students are automatically created during registration from the Enterprise Resource Planning Software. All of this greatly enhanced students' information technology experience on campus.

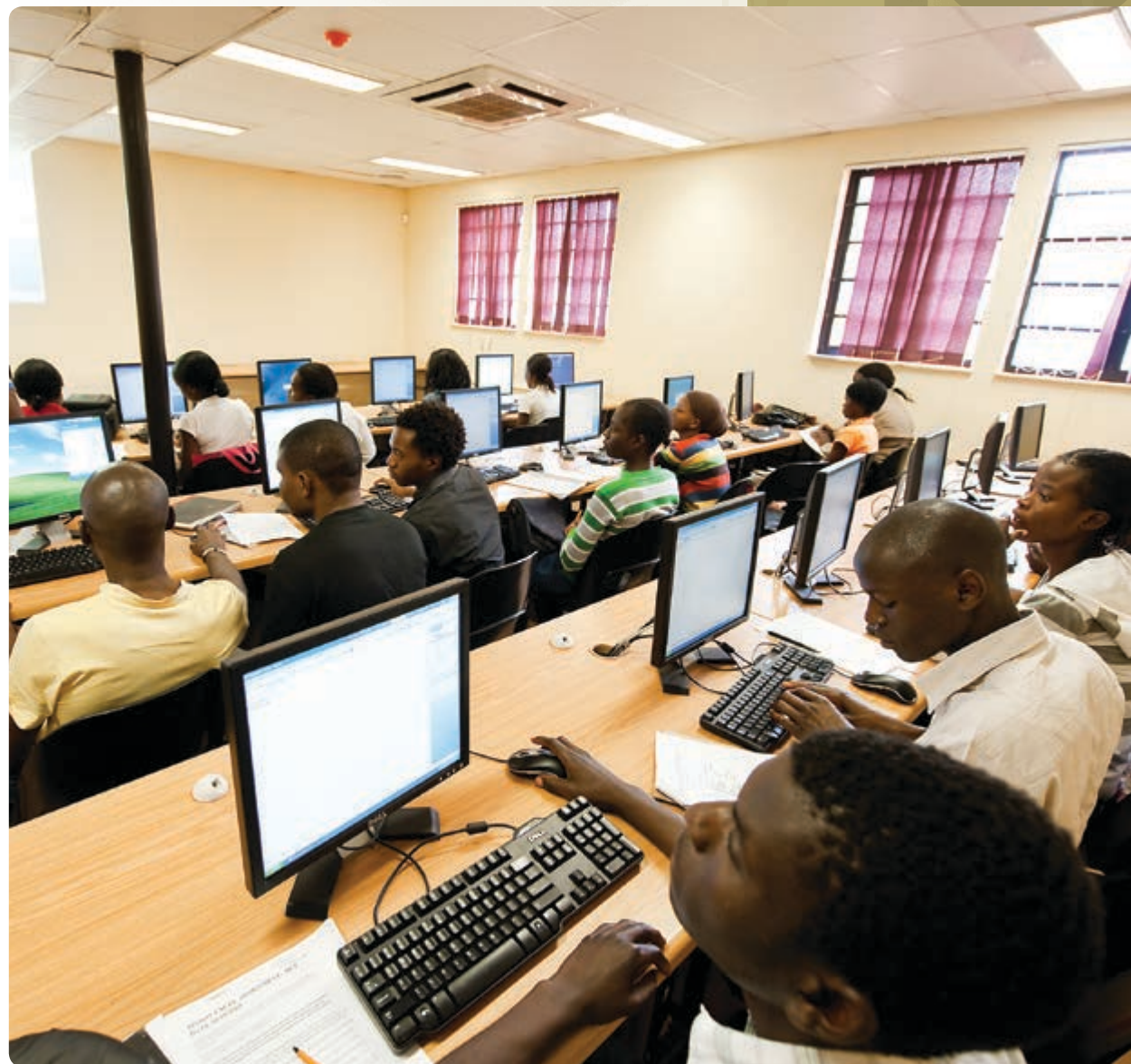
The department also installed FortiMail to counteract the ever-growing number of viruses and spam. The system offered both inbound and outbound scanning, advanced antispam and antivirus filtering capabilities. This fully automated system provided an effective barrier that reduced the number of threats by almost 75 percent.

To prevent indiscriminate internet usage which leaves the University with insufficient bandwidth for mission critical applications, the department installed the Allot bandwidth analyser. The department is now able to analyse bandwidth usage and needs, detect problem areas and detect how bandwidth is allocated between different applications.

In total 50 percent of obsolete staff personal computers were replaced. This computer equipment was becoming very slow and failed to meet the requirements of the latest software.

To provide alternative network connection in the event of network failure, a redundant ten gigabytes per second fibre backbone was installed to join the ICT building to the Computer Centre. Besides providing backup to the existing connection and catering for network growth, the fibre will allow for easier deployment of the next generation of services such as voice-over-ip and video-streaming.

The department completed the first of two phases of the SharePoint project. When completed the solution will improve the entire University business process.





Report of the Director Finance and Chairperson of the Finance Committee

The University of Venda's financial management and planning is aligned to the University's strategic plan and the various business plans of the respective cost centres. Budgets are prepared annually in line with the institutional strategic priorities and resources are allocated to achieve the set objectives. Through linking the strategic planning and budgeting process, the University is able not only to create a more efficient way of carrying out its operations, but to attain its strategic objectives and to preserve long term financial stability.

While departments and school deans have the delegated authority to exercise discretion over the application of budgeted funds and the utilisation

of assets under their control for the achievement of their goals, they are held responsible for deviating from set targets in their business plans. The timely provision of authentic and standardised management information fosters effective budgetary control and financial discipline.

The finance function, through pursuance of financial accountability and excellence driven by best practice performance levels, provides a pivotal link between the University business plan and its implementation. As the custodian of the University's financial resources, the function ensures that fundamental principles of financial management are in existence. It also ensures adherence to every part of the institution to harness a culture of financial astuteness as the University is viewed as accountable and transparent.

The activities of the finance function entail financial reporting, provision of management information to the University and external stakeholders, including statutory authorities, and the planning production and control of the annual budget. It also includes the development of sound financial policies and procedures, the management and coordination of audits and the determination and administration of student fees and student loans.

Furthermore, it entails the control of staff remuneration payments, debtors, creditors, assets and liabilities and the administration of funds, investments and banking. It is also responsible for the development and maintenance of appropriate financial systems and internal controls, the administration of procurement and for financial management training.



"The timely provision of authentic and standardised management information fosters effective budgetary control and financial discipline."

***Ms Allyson Lawless
Chair: Finance Committee***



Financial sustainability in the foreseeable future

Using the budgeting tool, financial stability will be pursued through operational and capital expenditure.

Operational expenditure

This entails realistic income and expenditure projection, including the annual review of tuition fees. Budgets are prepared so that Council-controlled income within each year is adequate to cover total expenditure. It should leave a recurrent operating surplus that provides a hedge against unforeseen



circumstances and cover the following year's new initiatives, in line with the University's strategic plan. In future a budget allocation will be included for a contingency reserve, to make provision for the financing of all unseen expenditure, including urgent capital projects.

Capital expenditure

Council-controlled capital expenditure is budgeted and evaluated for separately from operational expenses and is undertaken in line with planned strategic initiatives. It is constrained by available cash resources, therefore projects are always prioritised.

Financial highlights in 2008

The annual statements give a snapshot of all the activities of the University, including both recurrent and non-recurrent income and expenditure, specifically funded activities, investment activities and financing transactions.

As such, the financial statements give a broad overview of the financial position of the University and its progress over the ended period. There were minor changes in operations during the year, the key one being the completion of backlog maintenance projects, using recovery plan funds received in 2007.



Key features of the 2008 financial results

Income statement account

1. Income grew at a faster rate than recurrent operating expenditure mainly due to state subsidies growing at above inflation.
2. Income increased by 22% compared to 2007 from R364.6 million to R444.7 million. The increase is mainly attributable to financial support from the Department of Education and an increase in tuition fees and interest income.
3. Total expenses increased by 20% from R300.9 million in 2007 to R361.5 million for 2008. The increase in expenditure was mainly caused by the jump in backlog maintenance.
4. The University realised a surplus of R83.6 million versus a surplus of R63.6 million in 2007. The surplus attributable to Council-controlled unrestricted funds increased from R29 million to R68.5 million. The restricted funds fell from R28 million to R1.2 million mainly because of the expenditure on maintenance and depreciation on recovery plan funded projects.
5. The University's net cash position amounted to R338 million (R160 million in 2007). Most of this cash is restricted and ring-fenced for infrastructure and efficiency funding. The balance is University free cash that is available for Council-controlled priority projects and available as a hedge against unforeseen circumstances.
6. Financial aid support and bursaries increased to R131.2 million, from R93.3 million in 2007. The National Student Financial Aid Scheme continues to be the major financier of student financial support.
7. The fair value of the held to maturity investments at 31 December 2008 was R5.9 compared to R55.1 for 2007. The drop was due to the maturity of two Momentum Life loans, realising R52.8 million.



Balance sheet

1. There was an increase in plant, property and equipment of R4 million from R405 million in 2007, to R409 million in 2008.
2. Borrowings declined by R7 million to R30.5 million.
3. Accounts payable went up by 18% from R189 million to R224 million and the largest component is deferred revenue from the Department of Education.
4. Accounts receivable fell from R88.9 million in 2007, to R68.2 million at the end of 2008.



Summary of three year operations

The upward trend on operating surplus indicates positive sustainable operations.

	2008 R' m	2007 R' m	2006 R' m
Subsidies	229	168	178
Tuition fees	163	147	120
Sundry Income	25	27	28
Interest and dividends	25	15	7
Fair value adjustments	5	8	7
Total Income	445	365	339
Personnel costs	192	173	164
Other operation expenses	163	120	100
Finance	6	8	11
Total expenses	362	301	275
Net surplus (deficit)	84	64	64

The financial management activities of the University Finance Committee are focused on supporting the key strategic initiatives identified by the University leadership and sanctioned by Council, while ensuring appropriate levels of controls and discipline in the various financial processes. More effort needs to be made to improve the budget process especially introducing a five year budgeting framework that set a blueprint for aligning the budgeting process to the University strategic plan in a more holistic manner. The emphasis on the appropriate allocation of resources in line with approved business

plans will continue to be strengthened. To this end, the University Finance Committee will reinforce its focus on these key matters -

- Continue to build awareness among the University community of the importance and relevance of effective financial management through proactively engaging budget holders in the budgeting process at all stages, the provision of management information in formats that can be easily understood and proper reporting of financial results.



- Continue to identify strategies and internal control systems that appropriately respond to and mitigate against the incidences and impact of all major risks. The cost of these controls will be measured against the benefits risks to be derived from managing the risks.
- To continue to develop and refine investment policies that:
 - Reflect an appropriate risk-return profile as well as the need for liquidity and income generation.
 - Control investment risk by determining the portfolio mix of the total investment fund allocated to higher risk or (equity) as opposed to low risk assets.
- To provide suitable and adequate infrastructure that enhances the University's ability to attract and retain the quality of staff needed to grow the teaching and research capability to transform the University of Venda into a quality driven, financially sustainable, rural-based comprehensive university.
- To help develop a more nuanced approach to financial aid and bursaries so as to enhance affordability and attractiveness to target students.
- As the University's most valuable assets are people, the goal is to create a work environment where the best and most creative are attracted, trained, retained and unleashed to perform.
- Strengthening the internal debt collection unit to recover student debts within acceptable time.
- Continue to be risk averse and forward looking to ensure that new demands are managed within the University's overall financial capacity.



The results for the year were made possible by the adoption by Council of effective budgetary control and the support this received from the University management and broader University community. Pursuance of an integrated financial planning approach underpinned by matching income with expenditure within the broad framework of the University strategic plan, need to be maintained to ensure sustainability.

Ms A Lawless

Chair: Finance Committee



The independent auditors' report to the Council of the University of Venda

We have audited the consolidated annual financial statements of the University of Venda, which comprise the balance sheet at 31 December 2008, and the income statement, the statement of changes in funds and cash flow statement for the period then ended, and the notes to the financial statements, which include a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Council's responsibility for the financial statements

The Council is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with South African Statements of Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, regulations for reporting by Higher Education Institutions and in the manner required by the Minister of Education in terms of section 41 of the Higher Education Act, 1997 (Act No. 101 of 1997), as amended. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditors' responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depended on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of

material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.

An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the University of Venda at 31 December 2008, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with South African Statements of Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, regulations for reporting by Higher Education Institutions and in the manner required by the Minister of Education in terms of section 41 of the Higher Education Act, 1997 (Act No. 101 of 1997), as amended.

KPMG Inc
Registered auditor

Per: CH van der Walt
Chartered accountants (SA)
Registered auditor
Director
Polokwane

Financial Statements

Consolidated balance sheet at 31 December 2008

	Notes	2008 R ' 000	2008 R ' 000	2007 R ' 000	2007 R ' 000
Assets					
Non-current assets			823,706		710,843
Property, plant and equipment	3	409,253	416,235	405,504	460,666
Investments	4	6,982		55,162	
Current assets			407,471		250,177
Inventories	5	1,080		812	
Accounts receivable	6	68,295		88,921	
Student fees		28,855		48,706	
Other amounts		39,440		40,215	
Cash and cash equivalents	7	338,096		160,444	
Equity and liabilities			823,706		710,843
Funds and reserves			481,883		398,208
Restricted use funds		58,653		57,441	
Unrestricted use funds - education and general		242,688		158,034	
Asset revaluation reserve	8	180,542		182,733	
Non-current liabilities			110,244		116,659
Borrowings - Interest bearing	9	30,519		37,663	
Employee benefits	10	24,266		21,967	
Deferred income	11	55,459		57,029	
Current liabilities			231,579		195,976
Accounts payable	11	224,316		189,162	
Current portion of borrowings	9	7,263		6,659	
Bank overdraft	7	-		155	

Financial Statements

Consolidated income statement

for the year ended 31 December 2008

		2008			2007	
Notes	Council Controlled Unrestricted	Specifically funded activities Restricted	Sub -Total	Student and staff accommodation Unrestricted	Total	Total
	R ' 000	R ' 000	R ' 000	R ' 000	R ' 000	R ' 000
Recurrent items	67,955	1,212	69,167	13,952	83,119	63,631
Income	368,328	62,167	430,495	14,216	444,711	364,603
State appropriations - Subsidies and grants	185,823	42,707	228,530	-	228,530	168,178
Tuition and other fee income	148,482	92	148,574	14,216	162,790	147,456
Income from contracts						
For research	-	14,085	14,085	-	14,085	17,773
For other activities	2,118	1,372	3,490	-	3,490	4,271
Sales of goods and services	2,049	-	2,049	-	2,049	2,114
Private gifts and grants	907	3,613	4,520	-	4,520	2,393
Sub-total	339,379	61,869	401,248	14,216	415,464	342,185
Interest and dividends	14	24,112	496	24,608	-	14,523
Fair value adjustments on financial instruments	15	4,837	(198)	4,639	-	7,895
						<i>continued...</i>

Financial Statements

Consolidated income statement

for the year ended 31 December 2008 continued

	Notes	2008			2007	
		Council Controlled Unrestricted R ' 000	Specifically funded activities Restricted R ' 000	Sub -Total R ' 000	Student and staff accommodation Unrestricted R ' 000	Total R ' 000
Expenses		300,373	60,955	361,328	264	361,592
Personnel		185,576	6,768	192,344	-	192,344
Academic professional		95,355	6,768	102,123	-	102,123
Other personnel		77,674	-	77,674	-	77,674
Leave pay expenditure		12,547	-	12,547	-	12,547
Other current operating expenses		96,707	48,747	145,454	264	145,718
Depreciation		11,765	5,440	17,205	-	17,205
Sub-total		294,048	60,955	355,003	264	355,267
Finance costs	16	6,325	-	6,325	-	6,325
Non-recurrent items		556	-	556	-	556
Income		556	-	556	-	556
Profit on disposal of property, plant and equipment		556	-	556	-	556
Surplus	17	68,511	1,212	69,723	13,952	83,675

Financial Statements

Consolidated statement of changes in funds for the year ended 31 December 2008

		Asset				
		Restricted use funds	Unrestricte use funds	Revaluation reserve	Recapitalisation reserve	Total
	Notes	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
2007						
Balance at 1 January 2007 as previously disclosed		50,379	118,525	176,599	120,607	466,110
Change of accounting policy	22	(12,258)	-	-	(120,607)	(132,865)
Prior period error	23	(7,974)	-	-	-	(7,974)
Restated opening balance		30,147	118,525	176,599	-	325,271
Transfer from asset fund		-	3,172	(3,172)	-	-
Revaluation of assets		-	-	9,306	-	9,306
Surplus for the year		27,294	36,337	-	-	63,631
Balance at 31 December 2007		57,441	158,034	182,733	-	398,208
2008						
Balance 1 January 2008 as previously disclosed		66,527	158,034	182,733	-	407,294
Prior period error	23	(9,086)	-	-	-	(9,086)
Restated opening balance		57,441	158,034	182,733	-	398,208
Transfer from asset fund		-	2,191	(2,191)	-	-
Surplus for the year		1,212	82,463	-	-	83,675
Balance at 31 December 2008		58,653	242,688	180,542	-	481,883

Financial Statements

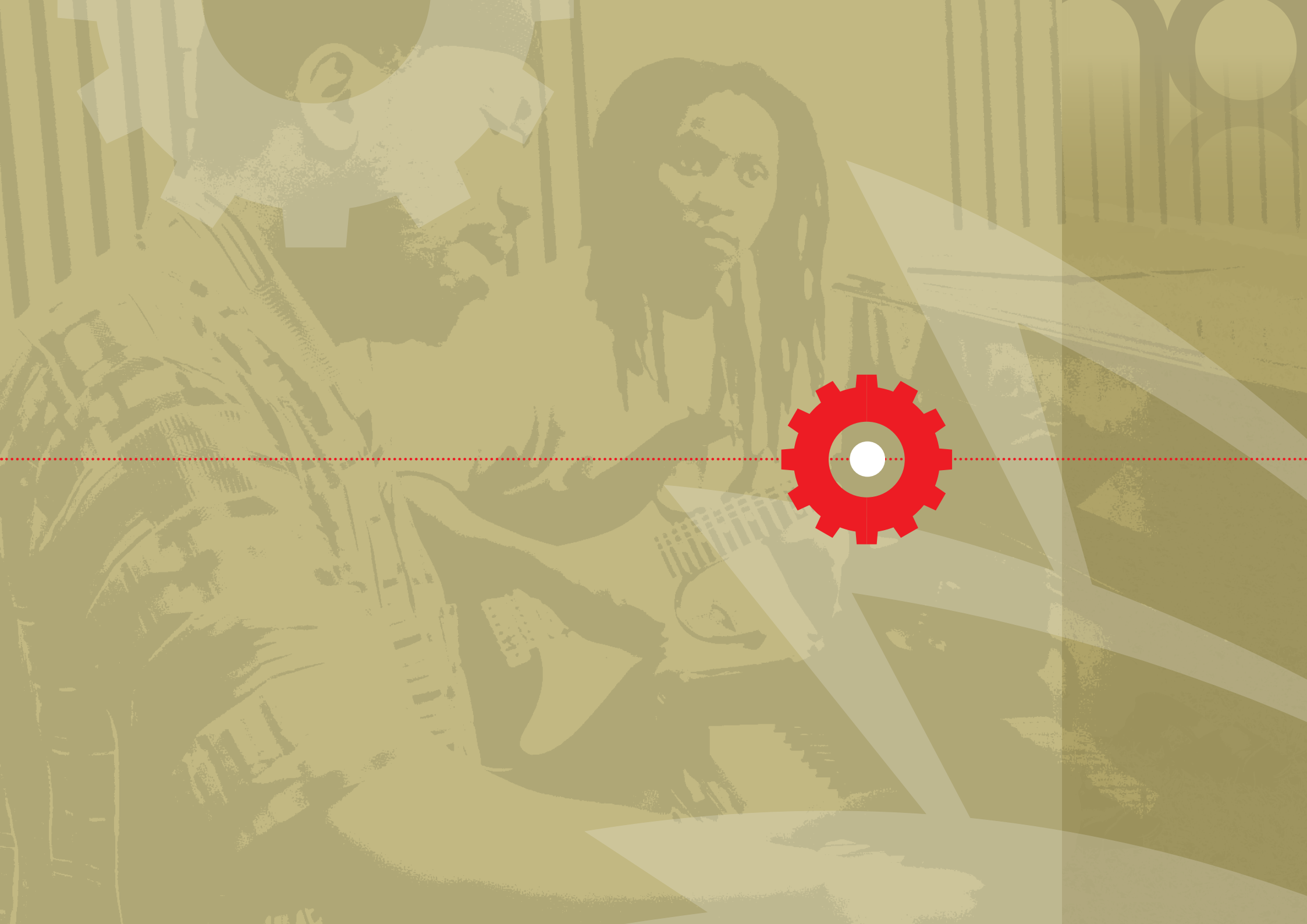
Consolidated cash flow statement

for the year ended 31 December 2008

	Notes	2008 R ' 000	2007 R ' 000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash retained from operations	18	135,213	49,788
Investment income	14	24,608	14,523
Finance cost	16	(6,325)	(8,064)
Net cash flow from operating activities		153,496	56,247
Cash flows from investing activities			
Acquisition of property plant and equipment		(21,124)	(71,147)
Proceeds on disposal of investments		52,819	
Proceeds on disposals of property plant and equipment		726	-
Net cash flow from investing activities		32,421	(71,147)
Cash flows from financing activities			
(Decrease)/ increase in deferred income: non-current		(1,570)	49,823
Decrease in long term liabilities		(6,540)	(6,388)
Net cash flow from financing activities		(8,110)	43,435
Increase in cash and cash equivalents		177,807	28,535
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		160,289	131,754
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	7	338,096	160,289







Univen is a quality driven,
financially sustainable,
rural based, comprehensive
university

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