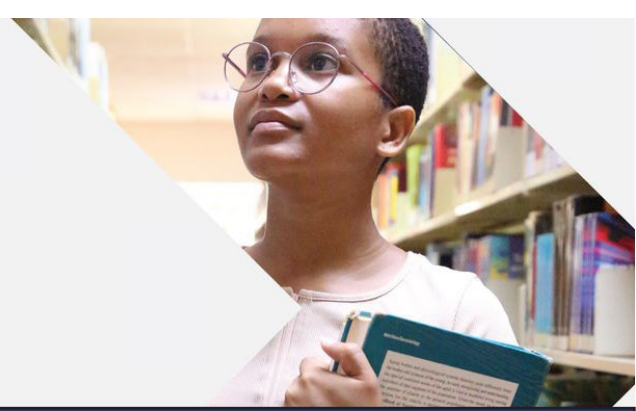




University of Venda
Creating Future Leaders

UNIVEN Weekly e-Newsletter



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Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law recognises its 2024 top academic achievers



Overall best students in FMCL posing for a group photo with some UNIVEN staff members

The University of Venda's Faculty of Management, Commerce, and Law hosted its 2024/2025 Excellence Awards ceremony at the Student Parliament on Friday, 23 May 2025, recognising outstanding students from first to third year. The purpose of the ceremony was to award certificates of excellence to the best-performing students in the faculty undergraduate programmes for academic year 2024.



Prof Tharien van der Walt, the Deputy Dean of Teaching and Learning in the Faculty of Management, Commerce, and Law

Prof. Tharien van der Walt, the Deputy Dean of Teaching and Learning in the Faculty of Management, Commerce, and Law welcomed the audience to the Faculty of Management, Commerce, and Law's (FMCL) Excellence Awards Ceremony. She said that the day marked new opportunities, challenges, and possibilities, and highlighted the importance of education in discovering one's potential, developing resilience, and pushing beyond limits. "Education is not about textbooks and exams. It's also about discovering who you are, developing resilience and pushing yourself beyond your limits," she said.

She further heartened students to make the most of their university experience, "get involved in activities, ask questions, and believe in yourselves". She further stressed out that success is not just

measured by grades, but by the impact made, knowledge gained, and character built. She urged students to "Support one another. Be kind and work together to create an environment where all of us can thrive."



Adv Rolien Roos, Director of Teaching and Learning at UNIVEN sending out message to students

When giving message to students, Adv Rolien Roos, Director of Teaching and Learning at UNIVEN encouraged students to view themselves as the CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of their own lives, taking responsibility for their decisions and actions. She outlined the importance of having a clear vision, mission, and values to guide one's decisions and actions. According to her, "CEOs act according to a vision, a mission, principle and values. They have a guiding compass for what they do in their company." She urged students to define their goals, principles, and values, and to make decisions that align with these values, principle, vision and mission.

Adv Rolien Roos also highlighted the importance of making optimal use of available resources, such as time, and taking care of oneself. She noted that "time is an incredibly valuable resource" and that students should prioritise their well-being, including their physical and mental health. She concluded by encouraging students to make wise decisions, informed by their vision and values, and to take responsibility for their lives.

Ezile Matanzima, an LLB student at the University of Venda, was crowned as one of the Overall Best Students in the Faculty of Management, Commerce, and Law expressed joy and surprise upon receiving the award, stating, "Honestly, it was unexpected. The recognition just gave me a reason to maintain if not elevate the standard of performance."



Ezile Matanzima, one of the overall students photographed with Adv Gideon Joubert – Head of the Department of Mercantile & Private Law

Matanzima attributes his success to his disciplined approach to academic work, which included dedicating long hours to studying, utilising resources like YouTube and the Study Smarter app, and seeking support from classmates and lecturers. He advises fellow students to set clear goals, embrace challenges, and maintain a growth mindset. As he looks to the future, Matanzima is motivated to achieve and reach even greater heights, believing that this award is a step towards creating more opportunities and recognition in the competitive field of law.



Prof Freddy Munzhelele, Head of the Department of Accountancy, rendering vote of thanks

The ceremony concluded with heartfelt remarks from Prof Freddy Munzhelele, who extended gratitude to all involved in the event's success. He acknowledged the Programme Director's leadership, the Faculty Chairperson's unwavering support, and the efforts of the FMCL Executive Board Committee. Prof Munzhelele reminded students that while enrolment is the first step, graduation signifies the culmination of their academic endeavours. He encouraged them to take charge of their futures and invited attendees to celebrate the occasion and capture lasting memories.

UNIVEN Celebrates Africa Day with a call to action for young leaders to shape the future of Africa

The University of Venda's Directorate of International Relations and Partnerships recently hosted the 2025 Africa Day dialogue, themed 'From dependency to self-determination: Reclaiming Africa's future'. Held at the University's Senate chamber, the event brought together lecturers and students to discuss ways to contribute to the continent's development. The dialogue aimed to empower participants with knowledge on how to play an active role in shaping Africa's future, fostering a sense of solidarity and cooperation essential for the continent's growth and development.



Dr Joshua Masipa, a Lecturer in the Department of Arts and Social Science

In his keynote address, Dr Joshua Masipa who is a Lecturer in the Department of Arts and Social Sciences in the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education outlined the importance of Africa Day, which commemorates the formation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1963.

According to Dr Masipa, this day marks a crucial step towards Africa's transition from dependency to self-determination. "Africa Day marks the beginning of Africa's transition from dependency to self-determination," he said. The celebration promotes African unity, identity, and cooperation, reflecting on the struggles for independence and showcasing cultural pride and heritage.

Dr Masipa stresses that dependency extends beyond economics to mental liberation. He quotes Steve Bantu Biko, "The most important weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed." This highlights the need for Africans to liberate their minds from colonial thinking to achieve true freedom and self-determination. The current education system, which relies heavily on Western textbooks and theories, perpetuates dependency and undermines African knowledge systems. "We are using their theories; we are using their research work. We are perpetuating what the oppressors want us to perpetuate," He notes.



Mr Matome Mokoena reflecting on Africa Day dialogue

Mr Matome Mokoena's Africa Day reflection underlines the significance of transitioning from dependency to self-determination, reclaiming Africa's future. He notes that Africa Day commemorates the founding of the Organisation of African Unity in 1963, with Mama Miriam Makeba, aka 'Mama Africa', performing at the launch. Mokoena stresses that true independence requires economic, intellectual, and cultural freedom, urging Africans to control their production, trade, and thoughts. He encourages students and young leaders to challenge the status quo, fight for self-reliance, and shape Africa's future, promoting African unity, resource consolidation, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Mokoena called on Africans to unite and invest in this continent's development.

African unity and cooperation are essential for achieving self-determination. Dr Masipa quoted Haile Selassie, "Africa must unite or perish." He urges Africans to take control of their destiny, develop meaningful leadership, and address real-world challenges. Reclaiming their minds, economies, and futures, Africans can build a brighter future. "Africans must develop leaders who seek meaning rather than expensive cars and mansions," he said.

Dr Masipa concluded by advising students and lecturers to be critical thinkers and agents of change, rather than mere mimics of Western knowledge and values. Africans can achieve true self-determination and build a brighter future for themselves and future generations.

During the dialogue, student-led panel discussion chaired by debating club and had this to say:



Mr Promise Nyalungu from UNIVEN Centre for Entrepreneurship and Rapid Incubation argued that young people should focus on collaboration, innovation, and entrepreneurship to drive change, rather than relying on external factors like funding or political parties.



Mr Vusi Mokoena, UNIVEN SRC President mentioned that adopting the "spiderweb doctrine" of connection and support can help young people achieve their goals and drive progress in Africa.



From UNIVEN FM, Dembe Matsile's sentiment was that Africa was not a dark, directionless wilderness as imperialists often depicted; it was a continent bursting with vibrant civilisations.



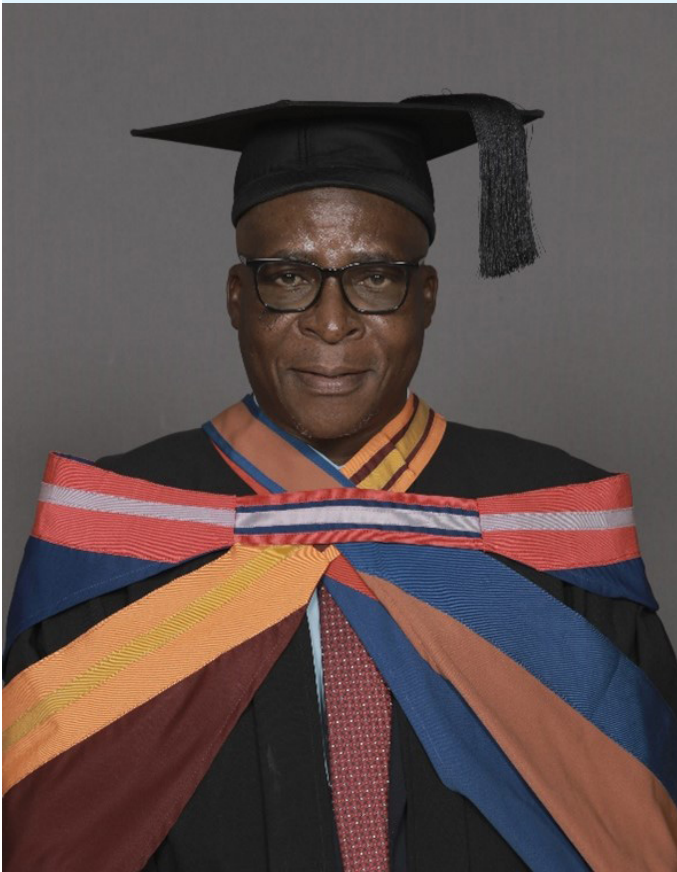
Whereas Ms Praise Zuze, Treasurer of the University of Venda International Students' Union, exclaimed that Africans should be proud and stand firm in their nature, colour, shape, skin and raise their flags at international levels.



In his closing remarks, Mr Tsundzuka Hakamela expressing his gratitude to attendees and participants. He thanked the panellists and Dr Masipa for their valuable contributions, as well as the students for their commitment during the challenging exam period. He emphasised the importance of applying the insights gained, particularly in essays related to African themes.

Mr Mashudu Ramaleba embarks on a renewed journey of passion for linguistic excellence

Former Convocation and Alumni Relations Officer, now Senior Committee Administrator, Mr Mashudu Ramaleba, returned to the graduation stage on Friday, 16 May 2025, to receive his BA Honours in English Language Teaching, having previously earned a Master of Public Management on the same stage.



After careful reflection, considering his background as an English teacher, freelance academic editor, and Senior Committee Administrator, Mr Ramaleba chose to forgo a PhD in Public Management in favour of pursuing his true passion—teaching. His affinity for languages emerged during his high school years, where he was elected Chairman of the School Debating Society, adjudicating in Tshivenda, English, and Afrikaans. This early exposure to multilingual discourse was further enriched by his father's work as a filing clerk at Stewarts and Lloyds in Simonstown, Johannesburg, where young Ramaleba joined him during school holidays, navigating a professional environment in English and Afrikaans in the 1980s.

Following the completion of his BA(Ed) degree, he embarked on his teaching career, later earning promotion to Deputy Principal at Edison Nesengani Secondary School in 2003, overseeing curriculum delivery. His academic journey continued with qualifications including an FDE in English from Rand Afrikaans Universiteit, a BBA Honours from Southern Business School, a Certificate in Proofreading and Editing from the University of Cape Town, and a Master of Public Management from UNIVEN.

Fortune smiles upon Mr Ramaleba once more, as just last week, he was upgraded to full membership of the Professional Editors Guild, having fulfilled CPD requirements and accumulated over four years of experience in editing.

"The Professional Editors Forum encourages us to continuously advance our studies, which is part of the reason I pursued a postgraduate qualification in English. We actively participate in webinars and volunteer editorial services for our communities to refine our skills. No editor worth their salt would risk stagnation by neglecting opportunities that sharpen their expertise."

In keeping with his commitment to lifelong learning, Mr Ramaleba is now enrolled for an MA in English Language Studies at the University of Venda with a specific focus on syntax and paragraph writing.

The Committee Administrators are expected to accurately convey minutes, decisions and reports. Choosing an MA in English dissertation on syntactical errors in paragraph writing allows for a deeper understanding of structural clarity, ultimately enhancing the readability and effectiveness of professional documents. This research will benefit other Committee Administrators by providing insights into common syntactical pitfalls, equipping them with strategies to refine their writing and, importantly, writing cohesive and coherent paragraphs.



UNIVEN
VICE-CHANCELLOR'S
WINTER GOLF
TOURNAMENT
2025

KILLARNEY COUNTRY CLUB, JOHANNESBURG
04 JULY 2025

Format: 4 Ball Alliance

Entry Fee: R8000
-Inclusive of Green Fee
-Golf Cart, Golf Shirt & Cap
-Halfway Light Meal
-Prize Giving Dinner

Payment: 30 June 2025

Golf Registration: 08H00 - 09H30
Tee-off: 10H00

The funds can be deposited into the University of Venda ABSA Account
Acc. Name: University of Venda
Acc. Number: 1000 000 538
Branch Name: Thohoyandou
Branch Code: 33419
Ref. Number: GOLF DAY 2025

RSVP: Mrs TR Muthadzwi
015 962 8823 | 072 168 7368 | tshililo.muthadzwi@univen.ac.za



saair University of Venda
Creating Future Leaders

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
Venue: University of Venda
Deadline: 30 June 2025

32nd SAAIR Annual Conference
27 - 31 October 2025

Towards Excellence: Enhancing Funding Pathways and Student Outcomes through Human-Centric AI, Impactful Research, and Operational Intelligence

Subthemes

- Funding the Future
- From Insight to Impact
- Bridging the Skills Gap
- Ensuring Excellence
- Global and Continental Commitments

admin@saair.net

UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

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Improper conduct includes the following...

1. Financial misconduct,
2. Misuse or misappropriation of University assets,
3. Health and safety risks,
4. Plagiarism,
5. Fraud and corruption.

UNIVEN Vice - Chancellor and Principal, Prof Bernard Nthambeleni wishes all students best of luck in their examination.