

Celebrating Academic Excellence: Sociology Section Recognises Top Achievers Through Certificate Handing Over Ceremony



First Level (SOC1141): Introduction to Sociology L-R: Dr Pelewe Mphephu, Ms Mulalo Tahulela, Ms Mokgaetji Masubelele, Ms Phodzo Matidza, Mr Talifhani Ramatswi

The Department of Arts and Social Sciences, through its Sociology Section under the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education proudly hosted a Certificate Handing Over Ceremony on Tuesday, 8 July 2025, to honour and celebrate the outstanding academic performance of top-achieving students across various levels of study. This significant event served not only as a celebration of student excellence but also as a recognition of the hard work, dedication, and academic commitment shown by the award recipients throughout the academic year.

The ceremony was spearheaded by esteemed lecturers from the Sociology Section, Dr Pelewe Mphephu and Mr Talifhani Ramatswi, who also took on the role of presenters during the proceedings. Their collective dedication to promoting academic excellence and creating a culture of motivation and recognition within the section was clearly reflected in the thoughtful organisation and spirit of the event.

Top three performing students were awarded certificates of achievement in the following modules: (Please refer to the caption of the photo above)



Honours Level (SOC5111): Research Methodology L-R: Dr Pelewe Mphephu and Mr Rinae Munyai



Honours Level (SOC5112): Social Theory L-R: Dr Pelewe Mphephu, Mr Rinae Munyai, Mr Talifhani Ramatswi

In a short address during the ceremony, Mr Talifhani Ramatswi congratulated the students on their commendable academic success and encouraged them to remain steadfast in their scholarly pursuits. Dr Mphephu echoed these sentiments, noting that recognising academic

excellence is crucial not only for motivating individual students but also for fostering a broader culture of achievement and dedication within the Sociology section.

The Sociology Section remains committed to nurturing academic excellence and ensuring that exceptional efforts by students do not go unnoticed. The section extends its warmest congratulations to all the recipients of the certificates and looks forward to more such moments of celebration in the years to come.

This event just marked another milestone in the Section's continued efforts to celebrate and cultivate academic excellence, and the university community is encouraged to join in congratulating these high-achieving students.



Certificate recipients and their Lecturers

A Bridge of Cultures: UNIVEN Students Discover China's Language, Heritage, and Innovation

From 18 June to 2 July 2025, the Green Technology Confucius Institute (GTCI) at the University of Venda led a 15-day educational and cultural exchange programme in China, themed "Song of the Yangtze River: China-South Africa Civilisation Mutual Learning Exploration." Eleven students from UNIVEN participated in the "Chinese Bridge" initiative, hosted by Hubei University of Technology (HBUT), immersing

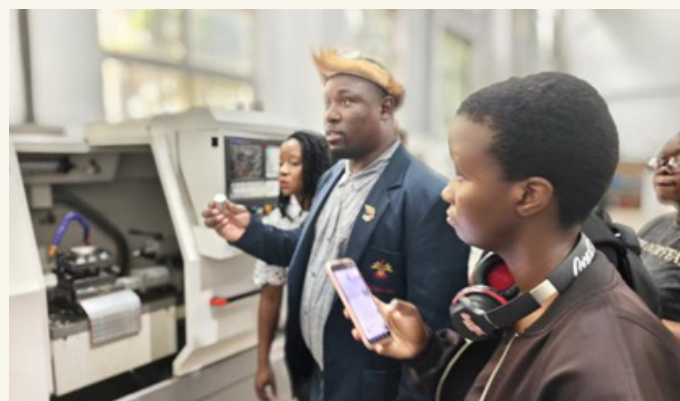
themselves in Chinese language, culture, and technology.

The programme featured intensive language training through a Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK) preparation course and deep dives into traditional culture, calligraphy, tea ceremonies, and historical furniture at the Muyan Hall Museum.



Students engaged in intercultural dialogue with Chinese peers at the Sino-SA Youth Civilisation Dialogue Forum, sharing Venda traditions and South African urban life.

autonomous vehicles and e-agriculture systems.



On the technology front, they toured innovation hubs, 3D printing labs, and photovoltaic training bases, gaining exposure to China's renewable energy and smart technologies, including

Cultural exploration included visits to historic sites along the Yangtze River in Wuhan and Yichang, including the Yellow Crane Tower and the monumental Three Gorges Dam. The exchange deepened mutual understanding and symbolised a lasting bond between the civilisations nurtured by the Yangtze and Limpopo Rivers.

Invitation For 2025 Disability Indaba

THEME: The importance of creating an inclusive environment where everyone, regardless of their abilities, feels valued and supported.



04 September 2025



09h00



UNIVEN Sports Hall

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CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Extended Deadline: 25 July 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 🏦📈

How are institutions using data to support sustainable financial planning, resource optimisation, and evidence-informed budgeting aligned to strategic and academic priorities?

From Insight to Impact 📊🔗

What governance practices demonstrate how data, analytics, and digital tools drive transformation, and shape strategic decisions?

Bridging the Skills Gap 🎓🔗

How are institutions preparing staff and students for a tech-enabled future through human-centred AI, curriculum reform, and analytics-informed design aligned to emerging workforce demands?

Ensuring Excellence 🏆📊

What innovations in quality assurance, institutional performance, and impact evaluation are driving continuous improvement and enhanced academic and operational outcomes?

Global and Continental Commitments 🌍📈

How does your institutional research advance the UN SDGs 2030 and Africa's Agenda 2063, and how are these contributions integrated into your planning and performance frameworks?

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Types of Contributions

Contributed Paper 📄📊

The paper may present findings from a research study, a case report, or the application of a particular methodology in practice. It could also explore theoretical and conceptual issues relevant to the conference's theme and subthemes.

Panel Discussion 🗣️👥

This is a collegial discussion of a topic relevant to the conference theme and subthemes by several discussants. The outline for such a presentation should describe the topic and the central issues that will be explored.

Pre-Conference Workshop 🎓🔗

A workshop should actively engage participants in discussing a topic aligned with the conference theme and subthemes. It must include a short introduction and clearly planned interactive activities. The outline should detail the topic, target audience, participant involvement, and intended outcomes.

Poster Presentation 📄📊

Posters can depict research or evaluation findings, outline a research process, or describe a program. The presenter(s) will be available at the poster for discussion at a specific time.

Demonstration 💡📺

A demonstration displays materials related to a project, research or practice. These may include a variety of formats, such as computer programs or multimedia presentations of a project.

