



UNIVEN's Vuwani Science Resource Centre emerges victorious



UNIVEN's Vuwani Science Resource Centre led by Dr Nnditshedzeni Eric Maluta, who is the co-ordinator and team leader of the Centre, won the Communication Award for exceptional sharing and promotion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). This award recognises those who have made STEM accessible through innovative and remarkable programmes and approaches. The prestigious 2021/2022 NSTF – South32 Awards celebrated under the theme 'Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development', took place at Houghton Hotel, Johannesburg on 21 July 2022.



Prof Jan Crafford, Dr Eric Maluta and Dr Bernard Nthambeleni



Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Honourable, Mr Buti Manamela (right) and Dr Eric Maluta

The keynote speaker of the 2021/2022 NSTF – South32 Awards was the Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Honourable, Mr Buti Manamela.

UNIVEN team led by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni was in attendance to support the award recipient, Vuwani Science Resource Centre Coordinator, Dr Eric Maluta.

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Venda, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni in celebrating the award said "this is a great achievement for the University of Venda. We are so grateful for this exceptional achievement".

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After receiving the award, Dr Maluta cheerfully said "I am so happy and proud to represent the Vuwani Science Resource Centre (VSRC) team as a winner of the NSTF South32 Communication Award. It has been a journey of engaging learners and the public on science related matters and a learning curve for me to communicate science to rural learners and encouraged them to follow careers in science at institutions of higher learning like the University of Venda." Dr Maluta enthusiastically mentioned that he is dedicating the award to the late Professor Vaith Sankaran who was his mentor on the science communication.

"I am proud to be part of the University of Venda's Vuwani Science Resource Centre and the Winner of NSTF South32 Communication Award".

When asked what made him to win this award, he said "Vuwani Science Resource Centre is in the middle of the communities which makes it unique in its science communications and we host the Limpopo Indigenous Knowledge System Documentation Centre (IKSDC). The centre has been embarking on science outreach programmes to different rural areas where learners do not have the knowledge of any science equipment. The schools do not have laboratories and learners are unable to identify what a thermometer is. The rural engagement of the learners and public is one of the key issues which allowed us to win the award". He further alluded that, "We are engaging with the Vhembe District Municipality and parts of Capricorn and Mopani District Municipalities during our career support, hands on training for experiments, role modelling programme,

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IKS programme and many other projects". He pointed that "The IKSDC allows us a space to communicate with the public on indigenous knowledge sharing and increase our public participation as a centre".

"The award is a wakeup call for VSRC to work hard in the space of science communications. We look forward to celebrating the National Science Week 2022 from 01 – 05 August 2022 and we hope to cover parts of the Vhembe, Capricorn, and Sekhukhune District Municipalities. The spirit of the VSRC continues as we always say to learners that "in your future, ri rothe". We are available as VSRC team to take science to any area, call us and we will be there for you", highlighted Dr Maluta.

Dr Maluta appreciated the work which is done by VSRC team, interns, volunteers, and support from the public. He indicated that the award has been a team effort, as he only coordinates the work and the team led by Mr Sampie Mathebe, works hard on daily basis to communicate science to learners and the public. He further applauded the following team members: Mr Robert Tshikwama from IKSDC, Dr Sophie Mulaudzi from the Department of Physics, Dr Lutendo Mathomu from Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, and Mr Fhumulani Mutshaeni from Department of Chemistry who are always assisting the work of VSRC team. The support of the University management, led by Dr Bernard Nthambeleni is appreciated, and we are also supported by different departments within the University, and it makes our work easier.

"To all learners, public participants, and all stakeholders, we appreciate your support

and as usual the gates and doors are open for you to utilise the centre. Finally, we would like to appreciate the support from different funders like SAASTA, NRF, DSI, NISSAN SA, Musina Venetia Mine, BMW, etc".

Dr Maluta is also a member of the Council of South Africa Institute of Physics (SAIP) and Commission 14: International Commission on Physics Education member under the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP).

Vuwani Science Resource Centre is a platform for providing education outreach to rural learners. The goal of the programme is to stimulate interest and understanding in maths and science among learners. The centre also provides people with access to basic computer literacy, providing training for three months and assisting them to get employment.

In addition, the centre aims to assist learners from rural communities to bridge the gaps and problems inherent in schooling systems that often result in high failure rates for first year students. The centre also focuses on building awareness around renewable energy as well as Indigenous Knowledge with the Limpopo Province Indigenous Documentation Centre (IKDSC), which gathers invaluable information around plants for medicinal and other uses.

The NSTF is the non-profit stakeholder body for all science, engineering, technology (SET) and innovation organisations in South Africa. It is an independent, collaborative platform that advances and embodies continued conversations around science.

Ms Khavhatondwi Netshiheni is among eight young scientists for innovative research solutions acknowledged by CSIR



Ms Khavhatondwi Netshiheni, a University of Venda Lecturer in the Department of Human Nutrition and Dietetics who is also a PhD candidate is among the four emerging researchers acknowledged for their oral presentations by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). She is one of the eight young scientists acknowledged for innovative research solutions. Ms Netshiheni was selected for her scientific investigation into the effect of consuming instant maize porridge fortified with Moringa oleifera leaves and termite powders on the nutritional status of children aged three to five years in Thulamela municipality, Limpopo.

The results emerged from seventh Emerging Researchers Symposium (ERS) that was recently held by (CSIR) to recognise eight young scientists for their scientific research work. This event was hosted at CSIR's Pretoria campus.

These young scientists were selected to battle it out for the best innovative research solutions to the challenges faced by society.

The ERS, hosted under the theme "Innovation in Entrepreneurship", provided 39 young researchers with the platform to demonstrate how their scientific research responds to the needs of industry, small and medium-sized enterprises and underserved communities, through oral and poster presentations.

The ERS was initiated to showcase the work done by emerging researchers at the CSIR, who include candidate researchers, individuals on the postgraduate bursary programme, students in the studentship programme, as well as postdoctoral programme candidates.

"The project contributes to the sustainable development goal to alleviate poverty and hunger as it improves the nutrition of Africans, particularly children. This also encourages African health professionals to leverage indigenous foods for the good health and wellbeing of patients of all ages, reducing medical and food costs and appropriating economic growth," she said.

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Directorate of Research and Innovation held the 2022 University Capacity Development Programme-Vice-Chancellor's Excellence in Research Awards



On Friday, 29 July 2022, the University of Venda (UNIVEN)'s Directorate of Research and Innovation held the University Capacity Development Programme (UCDP) Vice-Chancellor's Excellence in Research Awards. The awards ceremony took place at 2Ten Hotel, Sibasa. The awards are meant to recognise excellent performance of academic staff members of the University of Venda. This was also to encourage researchers who have made outstanding contributions to the University's strategic plan and strategic objectives which cater for Postgraduate Outputs, Research Publications Outputs, and promote Institutional visibility through ratings of their scholarly achievements.

The UCDP Vice-Chancellor's Excellence in Research Awards were for the Postgraduate Outputs for the years 2020 and 2021, Research Publications Outputs 2019-2020, and UNIVEN National Research Foundation Rated Researchers 2021 and 2022.



Awardees posing for a photo with Senior and Executive Management



In his welcome message, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Teaching and Learning, Prof Jan Crafford mentioned that he was elated by the fact that UNIVEN is rewarding researchers for their contributions by having awards ceremonies once again. He mentioned that this event gives recognition to academics who go through tough times to do research that are making impact in other people's lives. "We congratulate all academics who make sure that they produce quality throughout that make impact in everyone's lives."



Attendees during the awards ceremony

Directorate of Research and Innovation held the 2022 University Capacity Development Programme-Vice-Chancellor's Excellence in Research Awards cont...



The Director Research and Innovation, Senior Prof GE Ekosse set the tone for the awards ceremony. Senior Prof Ekosse said UNIVEN has been awarding researchers through excellence awards since the year 2012 except for the past 3 years due to Covid-19. Prof Ekosse mentioned that these awards are comprised of activities that are internationally recognised. "We need to ensure that researchers at UNIVEN are well recognised. It is commonly said that the journey starts with the first steps, and we need to be on the right path before we make thousands of steps."

Senior Prof Ekosse expressed that his office will continue to work hard and smart making sure that the good works of the university's researchers do not go in vain, and they will make sure that research and innovation continues to grow.

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In her keynote address, Director: Technology Transfer and Innovation, Prof KS Motaung from Durban University of Technology (DUT) spoke about the way universities are expected to produce relevant research that is aimed at producing results that improve the lives of community members. She emphasised that research makes impact to the socio-economic development. "We need to understand that throughout every journey, there are challenges and when you know how to deal with those challenges, then you will eventually conquer."

Prof Motaung mentioned that a patent can be an asset and it can also become a liability. She said every year the university pays for the license of the registration of that Intellectual Property (IP), so we need to make sure that all our patents make money for our universities. Prof Motaung urged researchers to do research that goes to the market. "Allow students to translate their research into something that can go to the market and commercialise the researched product."

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Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni was pleased to host the UCDP Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Research and Innovation. "We restructured the University into the model that supports our academic researchers who make an impact within our communities." Dr Nthambeleni mentioned that all UNIVEN staff exist to support the core programme which is our academic project.

He emphasised that UNIVEN is currently building the culture that is precisely supporting researchers and academics. "Without researchers and academics, we would not have jobs," he said. He further emphasised that as part of UNIVEN operating model, the aim is to give essence to Research Office. "We need to ensure that our research standings are flourishing, research should make the cutting-edge impact in our communities and students."

Dr Nthambeleni mentioned that the University wants to make sure that it provides proper support and give essence to researchers. He mentioned that UNIVEN has the biggest cohort of staff with PhD's and with this bigger cohort, we need to start producing a higher number of research outputs.

He congratulated the awardees and encouraged academic staff members to always strive for the best in research. He thanked the University's researchers for the hard work and appreciated their effort.



In his vote of thanks message, the University Registrar, Advocate Edward Lambani mentioned that UNIVEN is busy engaging with municipalities with the purpose of making Thohoyandou a better town. He further congratulated awardees. Advocate Lambani urged awardees who are NRF rated to continue working even harder to sustain their NRF ratings.

UNIVEN lecturer selected for prestigious Study of the United States Institute (SUSI) scholar programme



Rev Mashudu Muthivhi, a Practical Theology lecturer and Coordinator of the Theology Section in the Department of Human Sciences under the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education, has been selected

to participate in the highly competitive Study of the United States Institute (SUSI) for Scholars Programme. The selection follows an extensive process of application and interview finals. SUSI for Scholars Programme, an intensive post-graduate level academic programme, endeavours to strengthen curricula and enhance religious teaching and research quality. Rev. Muthivhi jetted off to US on 23 June 2022 and will return on 08 August 2022.

Rev Mashudu Muthivhi, a designated Religious Specialist by the Association of Christian Religious Practitioners (ACRP) and an NIHSS-SAHUDA doctoral scholarship fellow, joined a multinational group of up to 18 experienced foreign university faculty, scholars, researchers, and religious leaders. The multinational group amongst others

examined religious pluralism in the United States and its intersection with American democracy. They had opportunities to meet U.S. community leaders of different faiths who advocate for collaboration and tolerance among religious groups.

Seattle University conducted and hosted the Study of the U.S. Institute (SUSI) for Scholars on Religious Pluralism in the United States, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). The Institute explored, through the study of the religious landscape of the United States, the historical and contemporary relationship between church and state in the U.S. The programme draws from a diverse disciplinary base and included site visits to diverse local communities and an integrated study tour to different regions of the United

States. The programme also examined how religious thought and practice have been modified and influenced by the development of American-style democracy.

Rev Muthivhi, in his specialisation in pastoral care and counselling, is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Theology at the University of Venda. His research project has a dual purpose to identify, describe and analyse deviant healing practices in contemporary religious movements and to investigate how these practices blend African religiosity with European religious expression and identity.

The Executive Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education, Prof Bongani Bantwini, on behalf of the University, wished him a safe and successful trip to Seattle University (SU) in Seattle, Washington.

Chancellor of the University of Venda credits graduates for their hard-earned qualifications



The Winter graduation Ceremonies took place at the University Auditorium on Thursday, 14 July 2022 and Friday, 15 July 2022.

The University of Venda 2022 Winter graduation ceremony was organised into (4) four sessions which were spread over two (2) days. Over these two days, the Chancellor of the University of Venda (UNIVEN), Adv Mojanku Gumbi conferred 3 267 qualifications comprising of 357 Diplomas and Certificates; 2 517 undergraduate qualifications; 298 Honours degrees; 77 Master's degrees and 18 Doctoral degrees. These qualifications were from the faculties of Health Sciences; Management, Commerce and Law; Science, Engineering and Agriculture; Social Sciences, Humanities and Education.

The University is proud to see former and current SRC members receiving their degrees. The Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni congratulated SRC leaders for their exemplary leadership, hard work and determination that has culminated to this significant occasion.

Dr Nthambeleni was also thrilled by the performance of Tshinanne Edward Tshilololi who became the winner of Senate Medallion and a Trophy, and he was the Overall Best Student in the University for the 2022 Winter graduation. Tshilololi also scooped a number of awards.

During this graduation, a number of UNIVEN staff members also graduated, from undergraduate up to PhD level.



In these two days, a 72-year-old Dr Ndanganeni Phyllis Netshivuyu of Makwarela, outside Thohoyandou received her PhD in Educational Management.



Furthermore, the Former Minister of Communications and the National Assembly Chairperson of Portfolio Committee on Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Ms Faith Muthambi graduated a Master of Public Management.



Dr Nthambeleni in his welcome address, highlighted that "this graduation ceremony is a great moment for the University of Venda as we are celebrating forty years of the University's existence this year".

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal said "the University of Venda is one of the fastest growing universities in Southern Africa in terms of the depth of its academic staff, students' output, throughput, and the quality of research output. He further alluded that "We are making good progress with growing our own timber of Rated Researchers and we currently have 34 National Research Foundation (NRF) Rated Researchers. These Rated Researchers contribute significantly to the research publications output of the University. Our University staff with doctoral qualifications has increased to 41% which is above the national average in the sector".

Dr Nthambeleni indicated that the University of Venda contribute enormously to the socioeconomic development not only of this region and Province, but to the entire country by producing well rounded graduates. "Many of our graduates have moved on to occupy strategic leadership positions in both private and public sectors in the country", added Dr Nthambeleni. He continued to say, "As per our motto "Creating future leaders" there is no sector in this country where you would not encounter a University of Venda graduate".



Some of the pictures taken during graduation ceremony

Chancellor of the University of Venda credits graduates...



The Vice-Chancellor and Principal told the graduates that "The knowledge you have acquired in your chosen fields and disciplines is key to providing pathways for your future, but the many more hills you will have to climb in your life's journey will require you to be perseverant, appreciate and celebrate diversity, embrace teamwork, dispute resolution skills, negotiating skills, communication skills, critical and creative thinking skills, emotional intelligence and managing oneself. As you leave this University, remain ethical in your conduct, and abhor bribery and corruption".

He informed the graduates that the University will continue to engage with them as the alumni of this great University. "We will remain interested in your journey as our ambassadors", said Dr Nthambeleni.



In her congratulatory message, the Chancellor of the University of Venda, Adv Mojanku Gumbi gave credit to the graduates for their hard-earned qualifications. She thanked parents, sponsors, and guardians for their unwavering support to their students. Adv Gumbi also thanked academic and support staff for shaping the young minds whose dreams finally came true. She urged the graduates to effectively use the wealth of knowledge and skills they have acquired in solving real life problems that the country is confronted with. "The country needs scientists who can explain what they do in language that is understandable to the public. The decisions taken by our government on matters pertaining to health, agriculture, and other disciplines, should be based on scientific information provided by graduates. The results of the research that you have conducted must be relevant and comprehensible to society" concluded Adv Gumbi.



Minister Ronald Lamola delivers a Public Lecture on violence against women

As the country celebrates women's month, the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Honourable Ronald Lamola recently visited the University of Venda (UNIVEN) to address staff and students about issues of gender-based violence, drug abuse and crime. This event took place at the University's Auditorium on 01 August 2022. In his address, Minister Lamola mentioned that one of the biggest problems we are facing as a country is the gender-based violence pandemic.



He said today the President through his weekly newsletter has announced that we now have a new law which establishes a legal duty to report to authorities when we have knowledge, reasonable belief, or suspicion that a sexual offence has been committed against a vulnerable person. "The definition of vulnerable persons has also been expanded to include women underneath the age of 25, this includes students. I do not think that these amendments would find violent opposition in these corridors." Minister Lamola continued to say that feminist scholars have shown us of the years that women abuse, rape and domestic violence is rooted in patriarchy and toxic masculinity.

"It is my hope that a partnership like this can produce a proactive engagement with stakeholders such as civil society organisations, academia; standardise and internally control, in a transparent manner, investigation competencies and skills so they are victim/survivor-centred, and rights-based; training and educating society at large on Violence Against Women and Girls; prevention and investigation so responses are rights- based, gender-responsive, and trauma- informed."

Minister Lamola concluded his talk by mentioning that these solutions must be central to our response to this pandemic. He said from here in Thohoyandou to Cape Town, gender-based violence is real and is causing untold harm. "In this month of celebrating the brave women of 1956 who marched 66 years ago for gender equality, we must realise that gender-based violence is not only a matter for the justice system; it is a societal problem, one which we can resolve," he concluded.

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In his opening and welcome address, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni told the audience that last year UNIVEN was accredited to have its own School for Legal Practice. Dr Nthambeleni said local law graduates will no longer have to go to Pretoria or Polokwane for them to attend the practical law school. He said same applies to accounting. Students don't have to go to the University of Johannesburg for honours in accounting because the University has been accredited to offer the BCom (Accounting Sciences) undergraduate degree by the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA). This year again, UNIVEN was accredited to offer the Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting. These are some of the great achievements that the university has accomplished. "We are busy engaging with municipalities to fuse words to making Thohoyandou a better town." Dr Nthambeleni was also proud to mention that there is no sector in the country where you won't find UNIVEN graduates. This shows that the University is in the market. Furthermore, he indicated that the University doesn't offer degrees only, but we also need to impact the lives of our communities.



Regional Representative from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UODC) Regional Office for Southern Africa, Dr Jane Marie Ongolo said their office exists to engage people on issues of drug abuse, issues of crime, human rights, human trafficking, and issues of gender inequality. She said one of the reasons they saw it fit to come to address students and staff members during this event is because they have realised that Thohoyandou is next to the border and usually human trafficking is higher at the areas that are next to the borders.

It was highlighted that Minister Lamola and the UNODC's part of their visit was also commemorating the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons under the theme: "Use and abuse of technology." The theme focuses on the role of technology as a tool that can both enable and impede human trafficking.

She said Everyone can become a victim of this crime. "Traffickers are now using the internet to lure those they want to traffic. This place is not that far from the border, so we need to be careful about human trafficking." She said they have standard rules known as Mandela rules. When talking about issues of drug abuse, Dr Ongolo mentioned that people's

health related to drug use are also their concern. "Most people who use drugs are now in prisons because they were doing illegal things that they would not even do when they were sober. There should be a link between universities and these secondary schools. This university should act as the Centre for learning tool for teaching the communities about the dangers of drugs abuse." In this occasion, Dr Ongolo wished the UNIVEN well for celebrating 40 years of existence. She said discussions are underway to explore possible areas of cooperation between UNIVEN, Departments under the Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.



The Executive Dean of the Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law, Prof Barwa Kanyane said this event is blessed because it has managed to bring the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to the university through the office of the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services. Prof Kanyane further mentioned that colleagues in the Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law are closely engaging on these matters of drug abuse. "We are beginning to interrogate what is happening in South Africa because there is so much crime happening. As a university we have the capacity to canvas the research to make sure that there is transformation within our society." He described this Public Lecture as an affirmation of the long-lasting relationship between UNIVEN and Minister Ronald Lamola. "To demonstrate our commitment, the School of Law has just made a call for papers in law to hold a conference under the theme: The Rule of Law and Criminal Justice in Contemporary South Africa. The Law and Criminal Justice hybrid Conference will take place from 27-28 October 2022. This lecture should assist us to raise research questions that will be addressed by the upcoming conference. We need to interrogate these human rights issues," he concluded.



When responding to issues of overcrowded prisons, Mr Makgothi Samuel Thobakgale, who is the Acting National Commissioner of the Department of Correctional Services said they have overcrowded prisons, but they make sure that all prisoners have beds in line with Nelson Mandela rules. He said once a person has been sentenced, there is no way that they can reject a sentenced person due to shortage of space in prisons.



In his vote of thanks, University Registrar, Advocate Edward Lambani said the University has changed its gears to ensure that it becomes a better university for all.



The programme was directed by the Director: Marketing, Branding and Communication, Dr Takalani Dzaga.



Gifts from Correctional services- these gifts were produced by inmates



A group photo of Minister Ronald Lamola, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni, Dr Ongolo, Makgothi Samuel Thobakgale, Dr Adv Tsietsi Ramatsekisa, the Mayor of Thulamela Cllr Athongozwidivha Sarah Rambuda and Prof Barwa Kanyane

Water Research Commission Project Awarded to Prof Natasha Potgieter



Prof Natasha Potgieter was awarded a Water Research Commission project in 2022 to the value of 2,5-million rand. The Project is titled

'Surveillance of multidrug resistant enteric bacteria in wastewater sources and their association with clinical pathogens in South Africa'. This project forms part of the ONE

HEALTH research group activities. Prof Afsatou Traore is co-investigating while Prof Potgieter and Prof Traore mentor staff members (Dr Jean Pierre Kabue); Postdoctoral fellows are (Dr Ellen Ledwaba and Dr Mpumelelo Rikhotso) including several postgraduate students from Honours to Doctoral level. Prof Akebe Luther King Abia from UKZN, who is also appointed as a Senior Visiting Fellow in the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, is also a collaborator, researcher, mentor, and supervisor of postgraduate students in the ONE HEALTH group on this project.

Other collaborators on this project include Prof Tobias George Barnard from the Water and Health Research Centre where Prof Potgieter is also appointed as a visiting Professor. The inaugural meeting of the

research team took place in Pretoria in March 2022. Prof Abia also visited the UNIVEN campus on 26 June to 03 July 2022 to work on the project deliverable One (1) with Prof Potgieter, Prof Traore, and a Master student (Mr Theba Baloyi). During his visiting period, he was also a

keynote speaker at the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture Research celebration on 27 June 2022 where he gave a presentation entitled "Antimicrobial resistance and one health: implications for sustainable development in South Africa".



Prof Natasha Potgieter (far left front row), Prof Tobias George Barnard, Prof Afsatou Traore, Mr Themba Baloyi and Prof Akebe Luther King Abia during the meeting in Pretoria

Ndanganeni Phyllis Netshivhuyu Graduates her PhD at 72



Dr Phyllis Netshivhuyu standing in front of the University Registrar

"The effects of educators' rationalisation on school governance in public schools of the Vhembe District, Limpopo Province", was the title of her study and her study aims at investigating the effects of staff rationalisation on school governance. Dr Phyllis Netshivhuyu's PhD was conferred during the third session of the Winter 2022 Graduation Ceremony that took place on Friday, 15 July 2022 at the University of Venda Auditorium. A 72 year old Dr Ndanganeni Phyllis Netshivhuyu is a resident of Makwarela, outside Thohoyandou.

Her study argued that "As a way of addressing inequity, the Department of Basic Education had to address racial discrimination to equalise the supply of human resources in

terms of teacher pupil ratio, through staff rationalisation and redeployment in the education system in consideration of South African Schools Act (SASA) (Act 84 of 1996). She said this was to ensure that a uniform system of school governance was introduced in all public schools. The study highlighted that the implementation of those changes in education procedurally posed a serious challenge to some educators.

The study revealed that the implementation of rationalisation and redeployment created a negative effect to most schools, which influenced the way in which schools are governed. Such ungovernability was a mechanism used by SGB members to demand more educators to address staff shortages at their schools.

Dr Netshivhuyu indicated that during the period of her studies she experienced challenges of managing time to study meanwhile looking after her family and raising her children, Tshilidzi, Rendani, Thabelo, her sister Thinavhuyo and her daughter Livhuwani. She said her family contributed much to encourage her to study excessively and she dedicated her doctorate to them because they were on her side when sometimes she had to spend sleepless nights.

All this was done after her retirement in 2015 as a school manager for 23 years at Tshikhudini Primary School. Dr Netshivhuyu has 48 years of service working in different schools holding different positions.

She is currently working Part Time in Teaching Practice at the University of Venda (UNIVEN).

"I wish to encourage all students in different disciplines, my children and nine grandchildren that never get too old to learn. Everything is possible, if you take it seriously you can do more than what I did", she added.

Dr Lindiwe Mulaudzi appointed Director of Centre for Higher Education Teaching and Learning



Dr Lindiwe Melody Pearl Mulaudzi (nee Malange) was appointed Director of Centre for Higher Education Teaching and Learning (CHETL) with effect from 01 July 2022.

Dr Mulaudzi completed her matric at Sekano - Ntoane Secondary School, in Senaone, Soweto. On her teachers' advice and family support, she registered with the University of Venda for her undergraduate studies, from there onwards, UNIVEN became her academic home, as she also completed her doctorate at UNIVEN. She also holds an MA from the University of the Witwatersrand and a Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching in Higher Education from Rhodes University. She has worked in various high schools locally and in Johannesburg. Before joining UNIVEN, Dr Mulaudzi was an HoD at the now defunct Ramaano Mbulaheni Training College. This was during her tenure when she was nominated to be part of a South African delegation to the USA (Ohio) for an English Summer Training Programme.

Dr Mulaudzi joined UNIVEN in 2003 as a Lecturer in the English Communication Skills (ECS) section of the Department of English. In 2006, she became the coordinator for ECS, a responsibility which she held until 2016, when she was appointed Head of Department, a position which she held until April 2021. From then until 30 June 2022, she was responsible for literature modules at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Her involvement with the ECS course strengthened both her sociolinguistic competence and her academic literacy, and it sensitised her to the academic needs of her students, especially in relation to their learning of English and the acquisition of broader academic literacy. This then led to a growing interest in a plethora of education-related subjects, especially English language learning and student literacy. She has supervised both MA and PhD students. She has further presented papers at national and international conferences and has also published in peer-reviewed journals. She has also served in a number of committees within UNIVEN.

Dr Mulaudzi is currently the acting head for the Siyaphumelela UNIVEN Project. Apart from her UNIVEN responsibilities, she is also the Chairperson of Council for the Limpopo Community College, one of nine colleges in South Africa. She is also Deputy Chairperson of the English National Language Body of the Pan South African Language Board.

The University of Venda's Vice Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni said "It expresses excitement in welcoming the newly appointed Director of CHETL, Dr Mulaudzi and wished her a greater success in her new managerial role."

UNIVEN Convocation officially launches UNIVEN Vhembe Alumni Chapter

As part of enhancing the corporate identity of the University of Venda and promoting institutional governance, Convocation has on Saturday, 02 July 2022 launched UNIVEN Vhembe Alumni Chapter. The launch took place at the University's Research Conference Centre under the theme 'positioning UNIVEN Convocation for impact and relevance'.



The Deputy President of Convocation, Mr Ruzdani Mushweu stood in for Mr Sylvester Motadi and delivered an address of the President of Convocation. "The launch of this chapter is aimed at positioning Convocation for impact and relevance to its stakeholders and society. Alumni should invest their knowledge, time and energy as a way of ploughing back to their alma mater," said Mr Mushweu.

"The University is celebrating 40 years in 2022 and it is time for us to profile our alumni who have a high impact on society. It will be the perfect way to show that UNIVEN has over the past 40 years produced graduates that are locally relevant and globally competitive," Mushweu further said.

"We need to make an impact by raising funds for needy and indebted students. The University has produced no less than 48 000 graduates in its 40 years history and if we adopt the #R40-40 months fundraising programme, it can have a huge impact on the lives of our current students and unemployed graduates."



"The launch of an alumni chapter is a good opportunity to strengthen relationships between and among alumni and also opens opportunities for networking and renewing relationships. We are creating a support network in regional areas, regular social gatherings, providing support to current UNIVEN students, and raising funds for scholarships and special projects," said Virginia Moagi, Convocation EXCO member in her welcome and purpose address.



The University Registrar, Adv. Edward Lambani, on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, spoke about the state of the campus. In his address, Adv. Lambani praised the president and deputy president of Convocation for planting the seeds by donating R20 000 each for bursaries of needy students. He called on all alumni of the University to follow suit.

"As alumni of the University, we should contribute to the programmes of our alma mater. We should be proud of the institution that produced us because it changed us to be who we are."

Adv. Lambani indicated that "we are gathered as alumni because we are committed and concerned about running the affairs of the University". He cautioned members not to launch a chapter that will not add value to the University.



Mr Lavhelesani Mabade was elected Chairperson of the Vhembe Alumni Chapter.

In his Inaugural speech, Mr Mabade spoke on behalf of the newly- elected committee comprising of, Ms Rinae Makhado (Deputy Chairperson), Mr Tshedza Sikhwari (Secretary), Dr Mulingoni Makhwanya (Deputy Secretary), and four additional members, Ms Mercy Raphalalani, Ms Susan Kone, Mr Phindani Mulaudzi and Mr Xihluka Chauke.

The newly elected Chairperson, Mr Mabade thanked all who participated in the process. "As the newly elected chapter, we will work tirelessly to make sure that the chapter is effective and all the graduates have a good relationship with the University". He promised to address challenges that UNIVEN graduates are faced with. He assured the members that the chapter is not going to concentrate only on the issue of unemployment among graduates but will also look at issues of entrepreneurship.

"As alumni of the University, we should contribute to the programmes of our alma mater. We should be proud of the institution that produced us because it changed us to be who we are."



The newly elected UNIVEN Vhembe Alumni Chapter posing for a group photo



ABASA UNIVEN Student Chapter conducts Virtual Motivational Talk

The Association of Black Accountants of Southern Africa (ABASA) UNIVEN Students Chapter recently conducted a virtual examination motivational talk. This talk was held on Microsoft Teams for the benefits of all students studying all programmes offered within the Department of Accountancy.

The Chairperson of the ABASA UNIVEN Students Chapter, Miss Makwarela Amparisaho, welcomed the student leaders from the ABASA UNIVEN and University of Limpopo (UL) Students Chapter, guests from ABASA UL, Dr Morongwa Takalani, Mr Phumudzo Rambuda CA(SA), Mr Ndivhuwo Sirembe, students, lecturers, and all other guests. She highlighted that the importance of the exam motivation talk was to assist the students to remember what they came to university for and how they can deal with different issues which they may encounter during the examination period."

Miss Nyaluvhani Tshivule, ABASA UNIVEN Students Chapter General Member, indicated that three speakers have been invited to motivate the students while they are about to embark on their journey of writing exams. "It has been established that we often get depressed and have anxiety during this period which is why the speakers will be motivating us on how to navigate our emotions in a mental health aspect and what to expect from the exams and how to prepare ourselves from a student point of view" she said.

Advisory Board Member of ABASA UNIVEN Students Chapter, Miss Elelwani Mudau, gave a brief introduction regarding the guest speakers.



The first guest speaker Dr Morongwa Takalani from UNIVEN Student Counselling and Career Development Unit, who is also a psychologist, spoke more about how to manage mental health during examination period. Dr Morongwa Takalani continued to talk about stress and anxiety during exams. She said that stress is the mental and physical reaction of our bodies to the changes and challenges in our lives. She enlightened symptoms of anxiety which are, physically, emotionally, behaviourally, and mental cognitively. "Physical symptoms can include sweating, shaking, dry mouth etc. Whereas emotional symptoms include, depression, low self-esteem, anger etc," she said. She further told students to visit counselling offices whenever they have emotional breakdown. "There are those students who just collapse immediately after receiving a question paper, it's not like they are sick, it's the panic attack and anxiety attacking them."



Mr Ndivhuwo Sirembe from Transnet Port Terminals in the Department of Management Accounting, who is also a registered masters student at UNIVEN, explained how he made it to get a BCom Accounting degree at UNIVEN. He talked about discipline and always to remember what you want as a student. "You must treat a university as a fulltime job. Students must associate themselves with people who have the same goal as theirs and aiming high. Never prepare for an exam in the last minute" he said. He further elaborated that success is waiting for a man who says "yes" to success.

Mr Sirembe gave an example of the world football soccer stars who are Messi and Ronaldo, "those are the gods of football and yet they train every day, why? Victory loves preparedness. Even if you qualified with 40%, if you're disciplined enough and prepared, you can still make it. UNIVEN students are employable," he said.



Mr Phumudzo Rambuda CA (SA), a Senior lecturer in the Department of Accountancy at UNIVEN, said that during exams students panic, even those smart students ask themselves, "Am I ready enough?". He further

said that students must not tell themselves that they can study better under pressure. "No motivational talk, all-night prayer, and sangomas can replace studying. Spend most of the time studying," he added. He further talked about self-assessment after failing a test. He emphasised that to be nervous is normal. "How I studied is not going to be the same way you study, know yourself better and take note of your weakness. You need to sit down, and plan based on your strengths and weaknesses. Put more focus on the module that is giving you tough time. Some students are smart but very lazy and end up failing. You need to be smart when you study! Get past papers and attend all classes," he said.

The guest speakers have provided students with the necessary tools to assist them on their exams journey. ABASA UNIVEN Student Chapter hopes that a session like this will aid in reminding students of the importance of discipline and time management, not only during exam periods, but throughout their entire academic life at UNIVEN,



Mr Munei Mudau, an Advisory Board Member of ABASA UNIVEN Students Chapter and an Academic Trainee at UNIVEN expressed his gratitude to all the guest speakers for making time to come and motivate the students.

He indicated that he hopes that students have learned a lot and will go and execute what they have learned from the speakers.

Physical symptoms of anxiety can include sweating, shaking and dry mouth. Emotional symptoms include, depression, low self-esteem and anger."

Elephant Board of Representatives Meets to Discuss Projects that will Benefit South African Masters and Honours Students



Participants at the ELEPHANT meeting held at UMP

The University of Mpumalanga (UMP) recently hosted a five-day ELEPHANT meeting at the Tfokomala Hotel and Conference Centre – together with the Steering Committee (UU, UNIBO and UP) and the Board of Representatives (UMP, UNIVEN, UL, UFH, SAWC, UP, UNIBO, and UU). An important outcome of this meeting is that South African Masters and Honours students stand to benefit from the ELEPHANT project.

Prof Natasha Potgieter, Prof Afsatou Traore and Dr Segun Obadire attended this annual meeting of the ELEPHANT Project as part of the ELEPHANT project Board of representatives. During the meeting, progress of the ELEPHANT project was discussed, and further development and delivery of One Health-related training in South Africa, the Netherlands and Italy was planned. The training targeting staff and Post

Graduate students, focuses on the principles of One Health, an integrated approach of human, animal and environmental health and welfare issues, sample collection and disease surveillance methods, hazard identification, and biosecurity and welfare assessments. Participants discussed the establishment of community participative postgraduate student research projects, strategies for enhancing involvement of, and effective communication with local communities and authorities, as well as dissemination of results to these communities and beyond. The ELEPHANT consortium adopted interdisciplinary by bringing together researchers with different skills, expertise, and backgrounds as well as a transdisciplinary approach that will overcome the boundaries between academia and society to enable inputs and scoping across scientific and non-scientific stakeholders.

Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture organises a Faculty Research Celebration

On 27 and 28 June 2022, the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture held the Faculty Research celebration at the University's Research Conference Centre. The purpose of the event was to showcase and celebrate research diversity within the faculty. The event had several poster and oral presentations from staff, undergraduate and postgraduate students on several research themes which included (1) Climate change, energy, agriculture and food security; (2) One Health research; (3) Natural products and Material Sciences; (4) Spatial planning, land management or rural development; (5) Biodiversity, Conservation, or ecosystem services; (6) Mathematical modelling or data sciences [including engineering innovations]; and (7) Environmental monitoring or waste management.



Attendees of the Faculty Research Day listening to the speaker



The Executive Dean of the Faculty, Prof Ntebogeng Mokgalaka-Fleischmann, welcomed everybody and said the purpose of this Faculty Research celebration was to elevate awareness and appreciate the University's research endeavours across departments, niche and focus areas; to foster the exchange of knowledge information and the cross fertilisation of ideas and to encourage the development of multidisciplinary efforts. Prof Mokgalaka mentioned that it is through events like this where the faculty seeks to foster and encourage multidisciplinary efforts. She gave a brief background of the faculty where she mentioned that researchers and the research that is taking place in the faculty are of highest quality and on equal footing to researchers from other Universities.

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In the Official Opening, Senior Prof George's Ekosse described Prof Mokgalaka as someone who has built her career from scratch to where she is now. He challenged female attendees and researchers to use Prof Mokgalaka as an example and a mentor. Senior Prof Ekosse mentioned that the researchers in this Faculty also need to look at the research output for the University. When talking about technology transfer, he said most university patents are coming from the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture. He encouraged postgraduate students to register their profiles on NRF platforms because these platforms will give them exposure and recognition. He concluded by saying: "We need to see beyond NRF, we need to make sure that our research makes impact in our country and internationally. Let your research work speak for you".



As the Keynote Speaker on the first day, Prof Akebe Luther King Abia from the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, presented on the title, "Antibiotic resistance and one health: implication for sustainable development in South Africa". He presented about several studies that he conducted which were aimed at finding solutions to antibiotic resistance in Sub-Saharan African countries. He said there is a lot of infections that could take place if we expose ourselves to polluted water. We are drinking water that is mostly abstracted from rivers and dams and these rivers are polluted. Prof Akebe said resistance in bacteria threaten long-term food security especially in food animal production. The country and the world need the solutions to this challenge. Most conventional sewage treatment options do not remove antibiotics from the water, and this is a serious challenge.



Poster sessions during the lunch and teatime breaks provided opportunity for interaction between the researchers and interested individuals. Several industrial companies, like Labex, Inquaba, United Scientific, Labotec and Separations were also present to showcase laboratory equipment and talk to the students and staff concerning new techniques. The two-day event was very successful and it gave young future scientists an opportunity to learn from each other and present their own results to their peers.



Human Resource Department organises the Occupational Health and Safety training for staff members



Staff members during the firefighting training

From Monday, 18th July to 22 July 2022, the University of Venda's Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Office held the Health and Safety Workshop that included various courses to train the selected employees of the University about health and safety in the workplace. This training took place at Jericho Hotel and Resort. The courses/modules that these staff members were trained on were: First Aid Course level 2 and Fire Fighting course. Amongst the trainees were committee members for Occupational Health and Safety representatives, members were selected from different departments, directorates, and faculties.



Occupational Health and Safety Officer, Mr Thabelo Makananise mentioned that the selection of this committee and these trainings are part of a legal requirement. I am happy now that there is so much progress, staff members are being equipped. He mentioned that the committee members were carefully selected from separate University buildings. "In case of emergency people will know who to contact and that person will know what to do."

Mr Makananise further said these staff members are doing this on voluntary basis without remuneration.



Head of Facilities Management, Mr Takalani Phosiwa who also attended the training mentioned that the main purpose is our safety awareness, preparedness in case of emergency and responding to disasters in case of fire. He mentioned that in the case of a colleague collapsing at work one needs to know what to do while waiting for the ambulance. "We should know how to attend to injuries and wounds and how to stop the bleeding and manage emergency scenes." He urged the attendees to know how to apply the basic health and safety procedures.



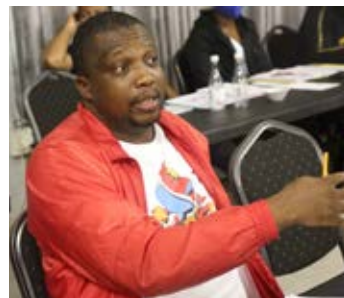
Attendees of the training writing tests on the last day of the training



The chairperson of the OHS Committee is the University's Director Human Resources, Mrs Uanda Ndou (Middle in the photo above).



UNIVEN's Head of Employee Relations, Adv Rudzani Makhema emphasised that UNIVEN should ensure that employees and students are safe in the workplace. "This will help them to eliminate injuries and even death in worse scenarios." Adv Makhema continued to mention that, in order to develop a safety culture, learning must become first nature to staff members. "In terms of OHS, this training is a legal obligation for compliance according to minimise the impact of the disaster not to interrupt the business of the university."



NEHAWU Secretary, Mr Ambrose Mogashoa said the OHS training enlightened UNIVEN on the promotion of safety in the workplace. He said this training taught them the importance of promoting healthy working environment and the importance of conducive working environment for all staff members.



The training was facilitated by Mr Tshilidzi Thomas Munasi of Vuwa Holdings.



Internationalisation in Action: Student and Staff Exchanges

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) through its Strategic Thrust 4 is encouraged to establish and strengthen the local, regional, and international partnerships and collaborations in respect of teaching and learning, community engagement as well as research and innovation that contribute significantly towards enhancing the quality of the academic project, including producing graduates who are well equipped to compete globally. Through this strategic thrust, the University is challenged to strengthen its international profile and visibility, as well as to promote reciprocal scholarly partnerships that are characterised by joint international research projects and programmes. To this end, the Directorate of International Relations and Partnership (IRP) has enabled and coordinated numerous student and staff exchanges. From February to June 2022, eighteen (18) UNIVEN students and staff have visited various international organisations during the same period UNIVEN received fifteen (15) international visitors from across the globe. It is expected that with the easing of travel restrictions, there will be more international movements of both students and staff. In this regard, staff members and students alike are urged to reach out to the International Relations and Partnerships office for support. Some highlights from the various exchanges are outlined below.

UNIVEN WELCOMES VIVES DELEGATION

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) through the Directorate of International Relations and Partnerships welcomed a delegation from the VIVES University of Applied Sciences in Belgium from the 19th - 23rd of May 2022 at Porche Villa hotel. The visit looked at possible collaborations between VIVES University of Applied Sciences and the UNIVEN Faculties of Humanities Social Sciences and Education and the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Professor Bongani Bantwini the Executive Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education welcomed the visitors from VIVES University and introduced Ms Elley Verstraete and Dr Wendy Derynck to the University. Prof Bantwini underscored his appreciation towards the VIVES colleagues and noted that he hoped that this visit would culminate into more student and staff exchanges as well as projects between the two universities.

During her intervention, Ms Verstraete outlined possible collaboration areas and opportunities in Minor "Transnational Social Work", applied Social Studies, Education and Social Studies, Internships and Study-Programmes. Both Universities explored possible programmes and collaborative areas which may be undertaken in the short to medium term. In reaction, Prof Bantwini noted that the admission of international students was key to achieving the universities internationalisation targets and exchange programmes could be a conduit towards these targets.

Dr Mulovhedzi, from the Department of Early Childhood Education, indicated that UNIVEN hosts students from the University College Leuven and Limburg (UCLL), University of Applied Sciences from Belgium under the programme they train teachers teaching from grade R to grade 3. Dr Mulovhedzi further noted that UNIVEN will be working with VIVES on different programmes of Work Integrated Learning (WIL) for their students under Social Work and Education. After the



Group Photo Day 1: UNIVEN and VIVES Colleagues during the meeting

meeting, the team arranged for the VIVES colleagues to visit the schools and the centres where their students will be undertaking their training in Thohoyandou.

During the meeting with the Faculty of Health Sciences on 23 May 2022, Dr Mariam Mohlala welcomed the delegates and highlighted the importance of the collaboration between the two universities (Vives University and University of Venda). In her remarks she noted that this visit would be a catalyst for more opportunities and exchange programmes.

In her intervention, Dr Wendy Derynck noted that the Belgium government provides Scholarships to foreign learners and it's not expensive to study at Vives University. Dr Derynck further noted that students in Belgium do practical work starting from the secondary level, hence Vives University focuses more on helping students to gain practical knowledge and experience. Dr Derynck spoke about a programme called FOLOBs. She noted that this four-month programme allows students to thrive in their projects and practical work. The programme targets applied psychology students and focuses on health awareness. Another programme that was discussed was the ESociety programme, which focuses on the society becoming more digital and engaged in the technological world.

She also shared that there is an exchange programme called Star Exchange Programme which helps prospective teachers learn new methods of teaching. She remarked that the Star Exchange Programme is chiefly looking for teachers who can give non-western views on various topics.

In conclusion, Dr Segun Obadire, the Acting Director of International Relations and Partnerships emphasised the importance of the partnership between Vives University and the University of Venda. He shared his gratitude to the VIVES colleagues for their visit and highlighted that UNIVEN is an internationalised institution which is dominated by African students. He shared that there is a small number of international students hence the University aims to attract more international students from other parts of the world.

UNIVEN PARTICIPATES IN THE STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME AT UCLL

The University of Venda is in collaboration with University College Leuven and Limburg (UCLL). The partnership is led by the Department of Early Childhood Education in the former School of Education. The partnership involves the exchange of students from both institutions. The year 2021 has been an exceptional case, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, UNIVEN was unable to receive students from UCLL. However, the Department of Early Childhood Education at the University of Venda nominated three students to UCLL Belgium in 2022 Spring. Ms. Kgaugelo Khuto participated in the programmes during period from March to June.



Exchange of gifts between UNIVEN and VIVES Colleagues: From Left to Right: Dr Wendy Derynck, Ms Elley Verstraete and Dr Segun Obadire



A Group Photo Day 3: UNIVEN and VIVES Colleagues

Internationalisation in Action: Student and Staff Exchanges continued...



Ms. Kgaugelo Khuto (1st standing far right at the back row) with students from UCLL



During her period at UCLL, Ms Khuto participated in intercultural activities and understanding of the European countries including the history of the UK where she engaged in an interdisciplinary course that will be beneficial for her during her teaching career. During her short stay in Belgium, she was able to travel to different cities around Brussels and Ghent and neighbouring countries like France with fellow students from different countries and even made new friends. Ms Khuto noted that the staff at the university was very helpful, and which assisted in her settling in quite well. Ms Khuto noted that traveling with students from her course was the best part of her experience and she successfully completed her course. Ms Khuto was able to gain broad knowledge about cultural life in a different country and acquired some skills and knowledge she can use in her career.

UNIVEN STUDENTS MAKE IT TO VIVES UNIVERSITY

The University of Venda with its collaboration with VIVES University of Applied Sciences in Belgium was formed in 2017. One of the main activities that the partnership has is student and staff exchange. In 2022, three (3) students from the University of Venda, Ms Anza Ngwane, Ms Palesa Shaldah Mokone, and Ms Nzumbululo Ramulongo, an undergraduate student in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies in the Faculty of Health Sciences from the University of Venda, received an honour to be part of the programme of the student exchange at VIVES University of Applied Sciences in Belgium.

The mobility period took about three months which started from 06 February to 30 April 2022 in the framework of an exchange programme for knowledge and exposure in the field of intercultural and international perspectives which contributed immensely to their studies and provided them with international exposure. The scholarship was covered by VIVES University, including flight tickets, accommodations, traveling insurance, medical insurance, and allowance during their period of stay in Belgium.

The main purpose of the programme was to study, discover and explore as an exchange student at VIVES University of Applied Sciences in West Flanders Belgium, which is in the heart of Europe. VIVES University of Applied Sciences with its modern and competency-based higher education is innovative in practical research and provides its services to society. It also offers an adequate response to the social challenges of today and tomorrow. VIVES is an appreciative, friendly, and people-oriented university of applied sciences that concentrate on professionally oriented bachelor's degree and associate degrees. In doing so the university ensures that its students contribute to the globalised world as both human beings and professionals.



UNIVEN students at VIVES University of Applied Sciences

The University of Applied Sciences offers extensive opportunities to develop and spread its expertise. They used different methods of teaching and learning PBL, cooperative learning, project-based learning, and cultural activities. The students noted that VIVES has many mentors in the university and each mentor has their own course and sometimes they have assistant mentors or guests on other chapters for better knowledge and understanding to assist students. The students expressed their gratitude to UNIVEN for this life changing experience.

ROFHIWA TERESA MADILONGA REPRESENTS UNIVEN AT DHBW, HEIDENHEIM, GERMANY

Ms Rofhiwa Teresa Madilonga, a Masters student from the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture represented the University of Venda at DHBW Heidenheim in Germany. Ms Madilonga left the shores of South Africa on 22 March 2022 and returned on 20 June 2022. Ms. Madilonga visited DHBW under an International Business Study programme. Whilst in Germany Ms Madilonga observed that DHBW Heidenheim is considered one of the top-ranking universities in the world, with many top-class professors and students. She further noted that being in such a top university allowed for personal growth and development not only academically, but it provided an opportunity for one to expand their knowledge and world view beyond the classroom.



UNIVEN Students with other Students from VIVES University of Applied Sciences

The students received a chance to work with people with disabilities, they learned a lot about them and acquired more skills that will assist in diversity and inclusion. Moreover, the students gained knowledge of different activities and equipment that is used in different sports codes and discovered a new lifestyle out of their hometown.

During her stay, Ms Madilonga participated in various activities and learned different aspects of international business. In this regard, Ms Madilonga noted "this opportunity has helped me gain knowledge and understanding related to International Business. I was blessed to explore another country's culture for the very first time and network with other academic professionals, I remain grateful to UNIVEN for this life changing opportunity". Some of the outcomes posited by Ms Madilonga included the acceptance for cultural diversity and increase in cultural capital, the completion of a highly rated International Business programme which came with a certificate of completion. Ms Madilonga also developed adaptive abilities and was out of her comfort zone. This experience also fostered global connections with other international students and will in no doubt lead to greater employment opportunities.

"I was blessed to explore another country's culture for the very first time and network with other academic professionals, I remain grateful to UNIVEN for this life changing opportunity".

Internationalisation in Action: Workshops, Conferences and Internationalisation at Home

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) through its Strategic Thrust 4 is encouraged to establish strengthen the local, regional, and international partnerships and collaborations in respect of teaching and learning, community engagement as well as research and innovation that contribute significantly towards enhancing the quality of the academic project, including producing graduates who are well equipped to compete globally. Through this strategic thrust, the university is challenged to strengthen its international profile and visibility, as well as to promote reciprocal scholarly partnerships that are characterised by joint international research projects and programmes. However, it's not always possible to enable students and staff to physically travel abroad. To this end, the Directorate of International Relations and Partnership (IRP) is challenged to create opportunities at home where students and staff can participate in internationalisation activities while on campus. In this regard, IRP continues to organise events where staff and students can connect with internationalisation activities. During the period of May and June the IRP office organised three physical programmes (**the buddy programme, the COIL workshop and COIL classes**) where over 200 students and staff from all the faculties participated. Mr Joseph Mundadi, also participated in the South Africa-Sweden University Forum (SASUF) Student Network Conference on 06 and 07 June at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT). Some highlights from the activities are outlined below.

COLLABORATIVE ON LINE INTERNATIONAL LEARNING (COIL) WORKSHOP AND INFORMATION SESSION

The University of Venda through the Directorate of International Relations and Partnerships hosted a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) workshop and Information session on the 17th of May 2022 at the UNVEN COIL LAB. The COIL workshop and Information session was centered on the theme "Internationalisation at Home, Towards an equitable and inclusive internationalisation programme". Mr Thabo Dikgale, Partnership Officer from International Relations and Partnerships directorate opened and



Participants in the COIL Workshop

welcomed everyone who attended physically and online. In his opening remarks Mr Dikgale noted that the COIL project benefits UNIVEN students with connecting with other students internationally and gives them cultural competencies required in a globalised world.

The Acting Director IRP, Dr Segun Obadire provided the purpose and Objective of the event. He gave a brief synopsis of COIL project at UNIVEN and shared the partners with which UNIVEN is currently participating with in the COIL programme. He also noted that the collaboration includes international universities in countries such as Belgium, Netherlands and local universities such as University of the Free State, University of Limpopo, and Durban University of Technology who are also part of the consortium. Dr Obadire pointed out that there is COIL equipment that is available to help academics and students collaborate. He underscored that this opportunity is available to all UNIVEN students, and further encouraged colleagues to grasp this opportunity and move out of their comfort zones and partner with other students elsewhere.

In her remarks, Dr Baloyi encouraged academics and students to be involved in this initiative. She noted that there are projects that are happening and there is a need to recruit students and academics. Dr Baloyi, who is the coordinator responsible for the implementation of the COIL project highlighted that all faculties need to have representation within the COIL programme. She noted that this is vital for the exchange of knowledge and acquiring skills that would increase our competitiveness. Dr Baloyi

indicated that this would expose UNIVEN students to the global village and allow them to share their experience and knowledge.

Dr Eva Haug, Educational Advisor and Coordinator Internationalisation of the Curriculum and COIL, delivered a presentation. Before her presentation, Dr Haug shared her pleasure and experience for developing the COIL project last semester with Dr Ingwani from the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture. In her presentation, Dr Haug briefly defined COIL as "a classroom-to-classroom collaboration between students who have different experience and looked at life and learning at the world differently". She noted that one can do a collaborative online programme within one's own country and within an institution although she recommended to colleagues to collaborate with someone from outside their home institution.

Dr Haug noted that COIL brings together different perspectives and engages students in an experience that helps with learning about topics and curriculum through technology. She also highlighted that this initiative is driven by international learning outcomes which develops perspectives on one's professional skills. It is also a tool where students can share their experience and transfer knowledge and skills to others in their professional life. She noted that the number of credits that one can give from this project rely on how much time students invested in the programme.

Dr Lufuluvhi Mudimeli, Mr Nsizwazonke Yende and Dr Emaculate E. Ingwani shared their reflections and experiences from previous

and current COIL activities. They encouraged lecturers to take part in this programme which will also contribute to the semester marks of students. They shared that there are lots of opportunities that can be leveraged for a better learning and teaching experience.

Students from UNIVEN (Mr. Koketso Morwatshehla, Ms Cheyeza Linga and Lubisi L.K) also shared their experiences and reflections from COIL. The students highlighted the cultural diversity amongst each other and stated that they got to learn other people's systems and how they conduct themselves within their communities. They also highlighted that this experience has indeed prepared them to be competent globally.

Dr Mgorosi from the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education who represented the Executive Dean provided the closing remarks and noted that this generation of today is very fortunate to have such resources for communication, teaching and learning compared to how things were before 1994. He encouraged everyone to take advantage of this opportunity and utilise it fruitfully.

BUDDY PROGRAMME OPENING CEREMONY

The University of Venda through the Directorate of International Relations and Partnerships (IRP) and International Students Union (UNISU) hosted an internationalisation Programme called "Buddy Programme" which fosters the social cohesion between international students and local students. The programme was hosted at Elias Resort on Saturday, 14 May 2022.



Group Photo of the Participants

Internationalisation in Action: Workshops, Conferences and Internationalisation at Home continued...

Mr. Takalani Thabo from the University's Department of Marketing, Branding and Communication directed the Programme. Mr. Thabo Dikgale, Partnership Officer from the Directorate of International Relations and Partnerships (IRP) gave a brief background of the programme indicating the intention of this event is to foster social cohesion at the University of Venda as well as in societies. He noted that social cohesion is not about acknowledging each other from different backgrounds or cultures rather it means celebrating our culture, celebrating our diversity and differences as well as our similarities. He noted that the objective of the Buddy Programme is to ensure that when they interact with their brothers and sisters from other continents and countries, they need to celebrate that we are more similar than we are different. He remarked on the value of the programme noting that it gives one networks beyond borders and fosters friendships on campus. Mr. Dikgale also highlighted that the Directorate's aim is to build cultural competencies to inculcate into student's studies to ensure that students are locally relevant and culturally competitive. He encouraged students to interact and take the seriousness of the programme forward.

Mr. Joseph Muka, UNISU President gave the purpose of the event and noted that they were there to interact with each other and form relations from different backgrounds as well as to celebrate their diversity, and to have a friend or buddy. He noted that since May is the Africa celebration month, colleagues and students alike, need to interact with each other and foster African solidarity.

Dr Wiseman Ndlovu, prior to the formation of groups, gave the participants the platform for interaction, wherein participants exchanged greetings in different African languages. Dr Wiseman Ndlovu remarked on the theme of the Buddy Programme, "Meeting of Cultures in Times of Crisis: Creating Sustainable Partnerships and International Cooperation". He elaborated that the programme is meant to highlight how we can partner together to propose solutions in a group of buddies with ten members each, from different backgrounds. Groups were chosen randomly and given topics under the theme as noted above.

The matter ranged from issues of gender-based violence, COVID-19, droughts, and food security. The groups were given the task to go out and identify a crisis of their own choice and seek partnerships outside and propose solutions collaboratively.

UNIVEN STUDENT PARTICIPATES IN THE SASUF STUDENT NETWORK CONFERENCE ON 06 AND 07 JUNE 2022 AT CAPE PENINSULA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (CPUT), WESTERN CAPE

The SASUF Student Network is a student networking platform that aims to bring together South African and Swedish students and other relevant stakeholders in research, education, and innovation to jointly engage on global challenges and their impact on society, especially the youth. The mini conference consisted of student representatives from the South African universities bringing together all the Student Network representatives. They discussed the direction and future of the SASUF Student Network and planned as well for the SASUF Goes Digital and the Research and Innovation Week in South Africa scheduled to take place from 19-23 Sept 2022 and 27-31 March 2023 respectively.



Mr Joseph Mundadi

The University of Venda has one Postgraduate student representative in the Student Network under the SASUF Student Network. In order to travel to Cape Town the student representative Mr Joseph Mundadi established new relations and strengthened ongoing collaborative as well as partnership



A UNIVEN Electro dance group performing during the event

efforts in research and Internationalisation, especially concerning the SDGs and plan for the upcoming Internationalisation Symposium that will take place at UNIVEN in October 2022. Moreover, he was tasked with the responsibility to chair one of the sessions on the South Africa Students Network collaboration to discuss on future strategies with SA representatives and university coordinators. Gathered at the COIL Room of the CPUT D6 Campus, participants were welcomed by Mr Uchenna from CPUT and Ms. Morelle, the CPUT PG Forum Assistant Organising Officer was the programme director for the day. Then Prof Judy Peter, CPUT Director- Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships provided a brief background of the SASUF as an initiative that started in 2018 to foster collaboration and partnerships between South Africa and Sweden. She also highlighted the urgency to establish the student network, and this is the first meeting for the network. She concluded by saying that all partnering universities should also start hosting events for the student network and create more partnerships. Thereafter, Mr Sammy Elie, representing Dean of Students gave an opening speech by introducing the

City of Cape Town and highlighting its history and its diverse towns, cultures, and races.

Ms. Julia Forsberg, the outgoing SASUF Chair from Sweden, gave a presentation online via MS Teams. She indicated the importance of this conference and the reason why SASUF was initiated to establish new relations and strengthen collaborations concerning the SDGs between students and other relevant stakeholders in SA and Sweden. She welcomed the newly elected board chaired by Andile from South Africa as well as the Swedish representatives. Julia concluded by urging all participants to be involved and work together to fulfil the SASUF objectives. She paved the way by requesting representatives to deliberate on the SASUF Programme that will be implemented by student representatives themselves.

SASUF Goes Digital in September 2022 was discussed resulting in a plan for a Student Network session on 20 September 2022. A project group consisting of student representatives from both countries, led by the newly elected Chair, Andile Mthembu will finalise the plan and continue the work going forward.

Mr Ratshilumela Mulaudzi is the new Director of Protection Services



Mr Mulaudzi has a vast experience working in both public and private institutions. With over 17 years of experience gained from grassroots operations managing all aspects of security in both Public and Private sectors including institutions of higher learning. He was appointed a Security Manager for a new division at the University of Mpumalanga. His responsibilities in the early stages of his career included, among others, management in the following areas: Security Operations, Investigations, Security systems (Control Rooms), and Crowd control, Occupational Health and Safety, Human Resources, Events Coordination, Access control and information gathering.

He is currently a PhD candidate in criminal justice specialising in Forensic Investigations at UNISA, and his research topic is titled: An analysis of the use of semen in litigation processes of rape cases in Venda (Vhembe District).

Mr Mulaudzi's formal qualifications include a Masters in Forensic Investigations and BTech in Forensic Investigations (UNISA); Honours in Criminology and Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice (UNIVEN).

Before his appointment as Director Protection Services, Mr Mulaudzi was a Security Manager at the University of Mpumalanga; Independent Contractor (Part-time) at UNISA; Head of Security at UNIVEN; Regional Manager: Physical Security at the Department of Correctional Services; Control Room Operator at NECSA (Nuclear Energy Corporation of South Africa); National Control Room Supervisor at SONDOLO IT; National Control Room for DCS; Control Room Operator at SONDOLO IT; Makhado Correctional Centre; Control Room Operator at FIDELITY Nokul Security Services at Meropa Casino and Entertainment World and Tutoring Criminology and Policing Studies (work study programme) at UNIVEN.

Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni said Mr Mulaudzi's notable skills and talents will be a great addition to the University's Protection Services team and the University as a whole. Dr Nthambeleni expressed that he is excited to welcome him to the University of Venda. "We are certain that he will deliver results, excel and make us all proud".

"We are certain that Mr Mulaudzi will deliver results, excel and make us all proud".

Most health conditions and diseases that men face can be prevented or treated if discovered early

When it comes to prevention and early detection, men's health often takes a back seat to women's health. Research, however, shows that, compared to women, men are more likely to smoke and drink alcohol and generally lead less healthy lifestyles. In addition, men are more likely to put off routine check-ups and also delay seeing a healthcare provider for symptoms of a health problem. Compared to working-aged women, working-aged men are less likely to have a regular doctor and health insurance.

Fortunately, many of the health conditions and diseases that men face can be prevented or treated — if found early. To start taking better care of their health, it is important for men to understand their risk factors and how they can improve their overall health. It is for these reasons that the Human Resources Department of the University of Venda (UNIVEN) recently held Men's Health event for the University's male staff members. This Men's Health Event was recently held on Microsoft Teams.

To start taking better care of their health, it is important for men to understand their risk factors and how they can improve their overall health.



During this Men's Health event, Dr Jimmy Budeli, a Lecturer and MSW Coordinator at the University's Department of Social Work expatiated on the topic of marriage and family. He said men need to be cautioned about things that could destroy them. Amongst other things, Dr Budeli spoke about family disorganisation and the role of men in bringing family together. He said families are at the centre of our lives, and in most cases we live and do what we do to make our families happy.

Dr Budeli continued to express that family disorganisation implies maladjustment, malfunctioning, psychological decay, the existence of family problems and said that the causes of family disorganisation are the frequency, intensity and duration of conflict that are so overwhelming that the couple are unable to tolerate such as physical or emotional abuse and verbal aggressiveness which may be so deliberating that no positive change could take place in the relationship.

Extreme conflict and domestic violence lead to serious family disorganisation.

"Addictions such as drugs or alcohol can damage family life. In a certain sense one can also be addicted to other things such as gambling. Problems attached to emotional attachment such as excessive business, career oriented and workaholic could also lead to family disorganisation." He cautioned them that career focused or career advancement can also contribute positively to family functioning but may also create family problems.

"Children should be raised well so that they become responsible and mature adults. Incompatibility, age differences, cultural differences, temperamental style, and sexual adjustments can also lead to family disorganisation. Other causes include financial problems including debts, extramarital affairs, poor communication, economic deficiency of husband, infertility, and death."

When concluding his talk, Dr Budeli told attendees that, family disorganisation leads to divorce, substance abuse, domestic violence /GBV, poor work performance, workplace incidents, trauma, substance abuse by one or both parents or even children. He concluded by encouraging men to take responsibility.



Mr Andre Viljoen from Life Employee Health Solutions (EHS) spoke about men and mental health. He advised men to believe in themselves when doing everything. "The good therapist is not the one who solve their clients' problems but the one who assist them to solve those problems. He encouraged them to use EHS because these services are not a sign of weakness but an empowerment.

In his vote of thanks, Adv Rudzani Makhema indicated that the University of Venda is committed to assist employees to overcome work and personal challenges that may negatively impact productivity. He further encouraged employees to utilise the university employee wellness programme which is offered to employees and their immediate family members at no cost.

Univen is a Consortium Partner in Eu Funded Erasmus + Capacity Building ELEPHANT Project



The six South African HEIs are the University of Pretoria, the University of Venda, University of Limpopo, University of Mpumalanga, University of Fort Hare and the Southern African Wildlife College. The consortium is led by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht University. Associate partners, National Wildlife College, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) and others will also contribute to the project and may benefit from its outcomes.

Professor Natasha Potgieter is the coordinator/leader in the project. The project is interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and multi-institutional in nature. The objective of ELEPHANT addresses several 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and align with the European Consensus on Development that integrates the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development for poverty reduction. Part of the outcome of the project is capacity building with the aim to empower the participating South African Higher Education Institution's (SA HEIs) on teaching and research capacity building in the One Health (OH) context and to give competencies to conduct a science-based health and welfare management at the interface between humans, domestic animals, wildlife and to pursue poverty relief.

Through funding from the Erasmus+ Capacity Building in higher education project, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) is a consortium partner in the "Empowering universities' Learning and rEsearch caPacities in the one Health Approach for the maNagement of animals at the wildlife, livestock, and human interface in SouTh Africa [ELEPHANT]. The EU-funded ELEPHANT project was granted to a consortium consisting of six South African and two European Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) namely Utrecht University in the Netherlands and the Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna in Italy.

UNIVEN Alumni Relations Officer Graduates with Master in Public Management



29 years after his first graduation at UNIVEN, Mr Mashudu Ramaleba ascends to the same graduation stage in the afternoon of 15 July 2022. It was no easy road as he changed from one topic to another in his mini dissertation. He is now the proud holder of a Master in Public Management (MPM) from the University of Venda.

"After completion of my coursework, I started with a topic on political interference in municipalities to a topic on unemployment facing graduates. With the help of my supervisor, the topic was refined to 'The role of political and administrative leadership in the financial management of municipalities,'" said an elated Ramaleba.

As an Alumni Relations Officer, his day-to-day duties include fundraising for awards and student bursaries, editing Marketing,

Branding and Communication Departmental manuscripts as well as stakeholder relations, especially with corporates and the university alumni. He is a member of the South African Institute of Fundraising and Professional Editors Guild.

When the Alumni Relations Officer, who holds a Bachelor of Arts in Education from the University of Venda, Post Graduate Diploma in English Teaching from the University of Johannesburg, Bachelor of Business Administration Honours from Stadio University (former SBS school) and Copy Editing and Proof Reading course from the University of Cape Town, decided to enroll for the MPM, he had no idea that the path will be littered with some hurdles.

"South Africa was hit with Covid 19 pandemic and a hard lockdown in 2020. It was a year of data collection from Vhembe District Municipality (VDM). I waited until the lockdown was eased in 2021 but yet VDM kept closing each time a positive case or cases were detected. While it was easier to meet senior administrative officials, it was difficult to meet councillors whose Council meetings were virtual."

Despite all odds, work and family commitments, Mr Ramaleba managed to complete his studies. He graduated together with six other candidates in his cohort whom he had the privilege to lead as a Class Representative.

"Each time one of us encountered challenges during our coursework and research, I sought audience from the lecturing staff led by Professor Nghamula Nkuna. The relationship remained asymmetrical and professional until the end," said Mr Ramaleba as he concludes the interview with Nendila news reporter.

Mr Tshimangadzo Donald Mukwevho receives the prestigious ABE BAILEY travel bursary to the UK



Mr Tshimangadzo Donald Mukwevho, a University of Venda (UNIVEN) postgraduate student has been awarded the prestigious all-expenses paid ABE BAILEY travel bursary trip to the United Kingdom (UK). Mr Mukwevho holds an LLB degree from UNIVEN and is currently enrolled for a Master of Laws under the Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law. The focus of the ABE BAILEY Trust is leadership development, the bursaries are awarded to persons who are academically strong and have shown exceptional qualities of leadership and service, with a good track

record not only on campus but also in a wider social context and who are able to function as part of a select and highly skilled group.

The Tour will officially commence in Cape Town on 22 November 2022. A Farewell Dinner will be arranged for the 24th of November 2022, to which past Bursars in the area and the Trustees of the ABE Bailey Trust will be invited. The Tour group will leave on 25 November 2022, on the evening flight from Cape Town International Airport. The official tour will end in Edinburgh on Saturday, 17 December 2022.

The focus of the ABE BAILEY Trust is leadership development, the bursaries are awarded to persons who are academically strong and have shown exceptional qualities of leadership and service, with a good track record...



IRP officials promoting the ABE BAILEY opportunity to UNIVEN students



The ABE BAILEY travel opportunity was communicated to all UNIVEN staff and students on 01 April 2022. The International Relations and Partnerships (IRP) Office also convened the ABE BAILEY information session on 29 April at the UNIVEN Cafeteria Lapa. This information session was preceded by radio interviews conducted by the IRP Office on 28 April 2022. A total of 20 applications were received from UNIVEN students. Shortlisted candidates had to go

through a competitive selection process wherein Mr Mukwevho emerged victorious.

Acting Director International Relations and Partnerships, Dr Segun Obadire wished Mr Mukwevho well and continue to encourage all UNIVEN students and staff to apply for international opportunities emanating from the International Relations and Partnerships (IRP) Office and the wider UNIVEN community.

Professor Sylvester Mpandeli was elected Vice President of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage

Prof Sylvester Mpandeli was elected as the Vice President of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) on the 27th of July 2022 during the Executive Council meeting in New Delhi, India. The Secretary General of ICID made the announcement on behalf of the President.

ICID is the world's premier organisation working towards a water-secure world free of poverty and hunger through sustainable development. This development is good news for the University of Venda, Water Research Commission, South Africa and

ICID is the world's premier organisation working towards a water-secure world free of poverty and hunger through sustainable development.

Africa as a continent. His position will open opportunities for South Africa and Africa to push climate change, food security, agricultural water management and water – energy – food nexus issues through the ICID platforms.

Prof Sylvester Mpandeli is going to work with more than 60 countries across the globe during his term of office. Prof Sylvester Mpandeli (PhD) is an Executive Manager: Water Utilisation in Agriculture at the Water Research Commission (WRC) since May 2013. He is an Adjunct Professor at the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture at the University of Venda since 2013. He was the chairman of the African Regional Working Group of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) and also the Deputy Chairman of the South African National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (SANCID) from 2013 to 2017. He represents the South African Regional Irrigation Association (SARIA) at the International Executive Council of ICID.

Currently, he is a board member at the Applied Centre for Climate & Earth Systems Science (ACCESS), a Board member at the South African Weather Service (SAWS) and is also part of the Climate Change Advisory team that advises the Premier of Gauteng Province on climate change issues. He is the Chairperson of the Water JPI Advisory Board of the European Commission and co-chairs the NRF – NOW Advisory Committee. Before joining the WRC, Prof Sylvester Mpandeli worked at the Department of

Environmental Affairs as Director: Climate Change Adaptation Resource Sectors at the Department of Environmental Affairs since October 2012 to April 2013. He was also a Specialist Advisor on Climate change Adaptation issues in the same department for a period of about three years from 2009 to September 2012. He worked at the Agricultural Research Council – Institute for Soil, Climate and Water (ARC -ISCW) for 9 years (4 years as a researcher focusing on Agrometeorology and then 5 years as a Programme Manager responsible for Climate Change).

Before Prof Mpandeli joined the ARC -ISCW, he worked at the University of Pretoria, Department of Plant Production and Soil Science for two years as a Research Assistant. He was part of the research team from the University of Pretoria that won an International Award in 2003 on water-saving technology using a wetting front detector tool developed by the CSIR- Australia, University of Pretoria and the Water Research Commission. The accolade was awarded by the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) in 2003 in Montpellier, France. Prof Mpandeli has published more than 140 scientific papers, book chapters, book technical reports and conference/workshop proceedings. Lastly, Sylvester Mpandeli was one of the climate change adaptation negotiators at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) representing the South African government from 2006 to 2013.



UNIVEN Holds an Induction for New Staff Members to Familiarise them with Daily Operations and Policies of the Institution

On 12-13 July 2022, the University of Venda conducted a virtual induction workshop for new staff members. This induction for new staff is a professional development initiative. It is a process aimed at assisting new University staff members to become familiar with the culture, structure of the University of Venda and to ascertain their role of enhancing and advancing learning and teaching; to advance an understanding of policies and practices and acquire an understanding of how the University of Venda operates. It is also aimed at assisting new staff members become accustomed and agile to their new working environment for them to perform their work effectively and gain confidence in their new role as University staff members.



Director Human Resources, Mrs Uanda Ndou opened and welcomed attendees to the induction. She talked about the importance of understanding how one's performance links to the team and divisional annual operational plan, she said "all these should link to the strategic plan." She said UNIVEN has invested time, energy and resources in the performance management processes and system. "One of the key things in your first four weeks is to have a performance contract" she said all these to the new staff members. Mrs Ndou emphasised that UNIVEN strives for high performance culture.

Mrs Ndou mentioned that the University HR is in transitioning from being a transitional to a strategic business partner. She said, "We are currently automating a lot of processes so that we can focus on supporting you as our client."



The Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni formally welcomed the new staff members. He said, "In my view you have chosen a very good University that is on the motion to change the lives of people in our province, region, country and the world." He gave an address on Strategic Plan 2025, Operational Model and Macro Structure. In his address he said UNIVEN is an autonomous institution and funded through the National Department of Higher Education and Training. He said "The University complies with several laws and regulations governing institutions of higher learning.

Dr Nthambeleni further elaborated on the UNIVEN strategic direction in which the University Strategy is aligned to and seeks to contribute towards collective implementation of the national development agenda as outlined in the National Development Plan (Vision 2030). He encouraged new staff members to read the National Development

Plan. "It is a very resourceful document for you to understand where the country is and seeks to be in the year 2030 as it is our role as a public institution to contribute to that particular agenda to make sure that the lives of South Africans are made better."

He mentioned that the University Strategic Plan 2025 provides a paradigm shift in teaching, learning and research. "It ushers us into a new era characterised by vast opportunities for students and staff to develop entrepreneurial knowledge skills and thereby contributing to the local and regional economic development agenda."

Dr Nthambeleni gave a background and context of the Strategic Plan 2025. He said the University's positioning statement is to make sure UNIVEN has impact and influence, that it is productive, efficient, and effective as an institution of higher learning. "Turn our rural context into a competitive advantage", he stated.



Deputy Vice-Chancellor Teaching and Learning, Professor Jan Crafford engaged with the new staff members primarily on the teaching and learning aspect. He mentioned that UNIVEN's Vision is to be A University leading in engaged scholarship and the mission of the University of Venda through engaged scholarship, is to produce graduates that are locally relevant and internationally competitive. He mentioned that the new staff joins UNIVEN at a time of unprecedented change in the new Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025, New Academic Structure, New Executive Structure, New Operating Model, Covid 19 Pandemic: new modes of teaching, learning and assessment and Entrepreneurial culture. Prof Crafford mentioned the University's Teaching and Learning Division since 2021 comprises of Four Faculties, the Centre for Higher Education Teaching and Learning and the Directorate Library Services. "All units are engaged in the ARISE value chain", he said.



Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Postgraduate Studies, Prof Nosisi Feza was glad to welcome the new staff members "You have chosen us as your working space for career development, we expect you to make contributions towards what we are about."

Her presentation focused on the strategy in the research and postgraduate studies. She said "As UNIVEN we have a very ambitious strategy, it was developed according to previous experiences for more than 30 years as we are celebrating 40 years anniversary

this year." Prof Feza mentioned that through community engagement UNIVEN is dealing with issues faced by community members and are working with them to provide an understanding in a mutual setting to find solutions through research. She said, "We decided as this University to be leading in engaged scholarship."

Prof Feza was happy that some of the new members are joining the research fraternity which means their research must be community based and assist UNIVEN in solving societal problems. "We pride ourselves in being locally relevant and globally competitive to have impact and relevance." She further said that the new staff members have made a great decision by joining UNIVEN, "You are joining a space of vibrant scholars that are doing impactful research and you will enjoy it."



Head of Human Resource Operations, Mr Victor Sigama presented about Human Resource Practices and Business Processes. He encouraged the new staff members to strive for graduates that are locally relevant and globally competitive. He also urged them to align themselves with the University strategic plan. "From the vision to the mission, we as a support department are supporting the strategic plan." Mr Sigama said the HR Department manages the organisational structure to make sure the core business is well equipped and has resource. "It's a structure that supports the strategies within the faculties"



Mr Esrom Phungo, Head of Human Resources' Organisational Development and Training, said the organisational development covers organisational effectiveness, organisational design, and work study investigation also internship and experiential programme. Mr Phungo said his Section is the custodian of the policy on learning and development which is about continuous development of the employees. The section is also the custodian of the performance management systems.

He further indicated that the Human Resources Organisational Development and Training deals with induction of staff, orientations, and succession planning. His presentation was about Performance Management which is linked to University Strategy and must measure performance in ways that both promote positive future results and reflect past performance. He

said, "Performance management is based on the philosophy of continuous improvement, learning and development."



Head of Employee Relations, Adv Rudzani Makhema introduced the new staff members to rules pertaining to employee relations at UNIVEN. He gave them an overview of employee relations and legislative framework. He mentioned that employee relations refer to an organisation's effort to create and maintain a harmonious relationship with its employees. "We provide professional support and advice on matters concerning disciplinary measures, equal opportunities, grievances, and employee wellness."

In terms of Legislative Framework Adv Makhema said the employment relationship between the University and its employees is governed by acts, policies and regulations which are the RSA constitution, the Labor Relations act, 1995, the Higher Education Act, 1997, University Statute (As amended) and University Code of Conduct. He said, "you need to familiarise yourself with these policies because they are important, and the University is governed by a Council."

In conclusion Adv Makhema outlined the services that are of importance to maintain sound employee relations as Labour Relations, Employee Health and Wellness and Occupational Health and Safety. He urged the new staff members to follow the code of conduct as it acts as guideline to employees as to what is expected of them from an ethical point of view. "All employees are expected to comply with the code of conduct and commit to responsibility." He also said, "Any contravention or failure to comply with the code, employees shall be dealt with in accordance with the University Disciplinary Code and Procedure."



Head of IT Support Services, Dr Nkhumbuleni Ratshitanga representing the Department of Information and Communication Technology showed that the Department is comprised of three sections which are ICT Support Services, Network section and Business Systems. He said, "It assists staff with Wi-Fi connectivity, creating portal (my access), installing, and maintaining computer."

Head of Reference section in the Department of Library Services, Dr Anna Matodzi presented on library services for staff. She said the library's mandate is to support the University's core business of teaching, learning, research, and community engagement. She familiarised new staff members with operating hours and divisions in the library.

UNIVEN Holds an Induction for New Staff Members to Familiarise them with Daily Operations and Policies of the Institution continued...

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HIV Coordinator from Campus Health, Ms Maggie Hlungwani gave a presentation on various services that UNIVEN Campus Health offers. "It is of utmost importance for institutions of higher learning to have campus health", said Ms Hlungwani. Some of the services offered include COVID 19

screening, treatment for STI's, also offers TEMS emergency ambulance and other health care services.



The Station Manager of UNIVEN FM, Ms Tshilidzi Shirinda presented on behalf of the Director of Marketing, Branding, and Communication. She mentioned that the Department can be considered as the heart

of any institution. She also shared the core business activities of the department. She said it is divided into various sections namely: Media and Publications; Functions and Visitors; Schools Liaison; Advancement Unit, Media, and Sound Broadcasting; Alumni and Convocation.

Head Protection Services, Mr Nditsheni Mathanya presented on services offered by the Department. He mentioned that UNIVEN Campus Protection Services is a security division which is aimed at creating a safe and secure environment in the University by intensifying patrol to discourage all the unlawful activities and to protect University community and its property. "We offer a multitude of services that ensures the safety of both students and staff." He continued to say UNIVEN offers CCTV footage which monitors the entire campus 24/7 and issuing of staff/student cards. He said, "Cases such as theft and Gender Based Violence can be reported."

Risk Officer, Mr Tinyiko Sibiyi addressed the new staff members on risk management and

introduced them to the Internal Audit and Risk Management Structure. "When planning events, you must first check risks that might hinder the success of an event or project."

Chief Demand and Acquisition Officer, Mr Azwifaneli Mudzwari spoke about the Supply Chain Management processes and procedures. Mr Mudzwari explained that the process of procurement is to adhere to governance, value creation for UNIVEN, support of University core function and others. He said there are certain things that new staff might need, and they are required to follow processes and procedures if they need new office furniture.

General Secretary of NEHAWU, Mr Ambros Mogashoa at UNIVEN addressed new staff on matters concerning their employment. He said the Union's role is to engage management on anything that has to do with the employment of workers. "Be it unfair labour practices or wages, we are responsible as NEHAWU. He said, "As an employee, one must belong to a union".

Professor Natasha Potgieter Awarded Norwegian Partnership Programme for Global Academic Cooperation (NORPART)



An Interim Deputy Dean: Postgraduate students and Research in the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture, Professor Natasha Potgieter has successfully applied and been awarded funding through the Diku call for applications for funding of projects between higher education institutions in Norway and selected partner countries, under the Norwegian Partnership Programme for Global Academic Cooperation (NORPART). The programme is funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Education (MER) and Research and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). The partners include the Norwegian University of Science and Technology from Norway and African countries the partners include Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST); University of Venda; The Nelson Mandela African Institute of Technology (NM-AIST); National School of Engineers Bamako; Addis Ababa University and Kampala International University. The consortium is the North-South-Alliance for inclusive water, sanitation, and hygiene or in short All4Wash.

Every year the consortium will have a summer school for postgraduate students. Each summer school is a 2-3-week intensive learning experience full of different aspects of learning global WASH aspects and entrepreneurial activities. This year the summer school was in Ghana from 10 - 23 July 2022. Prof Afsatou Traore was accompanying two female Master students from the ONE HEALTH Research group in the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology to the summer school in Ghana. Prof Traore lectured two modules (Microbial

characteristics of waste and microbiology in waste treatment; and solid and liquid waste management in South Africa) at the summer school and Dr David Tinarwo from UNIVEN's Physics Department, delivered one lecture (Biodegraders for solid and liquid waste treatment) to the students in the summer school via Microsoft Teams. Each partner sent two Master students and one staff member and Norway sent a total of seven students. The summer school aimed to have different students from countries learning from each other and working together to come up with solutions to WASH problems.

The two Master students from UNIVEN are both from the ONE HEALTH Research group in the Biochemistry and Microbiology Department:

- Ms Marry Mphaphuli holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology and Botany and a Bachelor of science honours degree in Microbiology both obtained from the University of Venda. She is currently a first-year master student in Microbiology under the supervision of Dr MC Rikhotso and Professor AN Traore. Her research interest is in TB, specifically involved in studying TB drug-resistance and associated risk factors in patients receiving treatment. Her driven goal is to generate reliable data which will greatly enhance the knowledge of TB patients and help in the treatment and management of TB.
- Ms Mpho Mphago is a 1st year Master of Science student in Microbiology at the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology (University of Venda, South Africa). Her supervisors include Prof Natasha Potgieter, Prof Afsatou Traore and Dr Ellen Ledwaba. She holds a BSc degree in Biochemistry and Microbiology and BSc honours in Microbiology obtained from the University of Venda. She is currently mentoring one honour's student at the University of Venda. Her research interests include the assessment of health risks associated with antibiotic resistant E. coli in young children and their environment by adopting the one health approach.



Prof Afsatou Traore, Mpho Mphago and Marry Mphaphuli who left for Ghana on 08th July 2022 to attend the summer school

In addition, Prof Natasha Potgieter and Prof Vhonani Netshandama were responsible for arranging a webinar on gender inclusiveness and rights issues in the context of water and sanitation related

to higher education, the human rights to water and sanitation, social and economic dimensions, good governance, and gender equity. This webinar was on the first day of summer school.



**ALL4
WASH**
"Water, Sanitation & Hygiene"

UNIVEN Bids Farewell to COVID-19 Community Health Care Workers

On Thursday, 30 June 2022, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) Campus Health Clinic held a function to bid farewell to COVID-19 community health care workers. This farewell event was held at Porche Villa hotel in Muledane. The main purpose of the event was to appreciate and thank all the health care workers who risked their lives to save the lives of others.



Mrs Maggie Hlungwane, HIV Coordinator at Campus Health Clinic gave a word of motivation and advised the health care workers on five matters that they should consider in order for them to excel in their future endeavours. The first point that she outlined was pride, she said pride can prevent a person from achieving better results in life and they should limit the use of pride to a certain level. The second one was being obedient- when you do not want to listen to other people or to take any instruction from other people, you limit yourself from growing career wise. She advised them to always remain obedient. "Do not be greedy. Be happy to always share with other people. Allow yourself to learn new skills." Lastly, Mrs Hlungwane advised them not to allow themselves to be destructed by minor items that could hinder their success.



Mr Tshamunwe Ralineba who is the Senior Administration Officer at the Printing Section of the University, mentioned how privileged he was to work with the health care workers. He also mentioned how scary it was for him to work during level 4 of the National Lockdown because that was when the virus was still strong, and many people were dying due to COVID-19 complications. Mr Ralineba expressed that he and his team understood the role that they were tasked with, hence they soldiered on.



Amongst the speakers was Dr Thivhulawi Malwela representing the Transversal Committee who told the community health care workers that they are heroes and heroines of this University because they have risked their lives to protect staff, students and visitors. Dr Malwela further told them that they have fought a good fight.



The University Registrar, Adv Edward Lambani thanked this dedicated team for their teamwork and for their commitment on the assignment that they were tasked with.

He told them that they were our pillars of strength during the pandemic because they took the risk to save other people's lives. "Your lives are not worth the money that you were paid for every month, your lives are priceless. Your lives are at the prices that no money can buy. You are our heroes and heroines, and our words are not enough to express how thankful we are," he concluded.

"You are our heroes and heroines, and our words are not enough to express how thankful we are."



In her response, representing the health care workers team, Ms Olga Ligege thanked the University of Venda for the opportunity given to them. She said though the situation was tough at some point, they have enjoyed interacting with staff and students at this University.



The programme was directed by Mr Andisani Mathelemusa (Pictured above)



A group photo of campus health care workers posing with the University Registrar, Advocate Edward Lambani (front row, fifth from far right), Dr Thivhulawi Malwela (fifth from far left in the front row), Mrs Maggie Hlungwane (sixth from left), Mr Tshamunwe Ralineba and Mr Andisani Mathelemusa

The University of Venda's Department of Accountancy together with Dream in Colour Foundation Hosted a Career Guidance Workshop



The University of Venda (UNIVEN) Department of Accountancy, led by Ms Shumani Nembudani CA(SA) and Caroline Tshikhovhokhovho CA(SA), together with Dream in Colour Foundation (DCF) ventured on a UNIVEN community engagement recruitment drive with the aim of attracting potential students under the Accounting Sciences undergraduate degree offered at the University. The team addressed mostly learners currently in Grade 12, except for a few Grade 11 learners that they managed to reach out to. The team comprised of academic staff and students.

The two institutions embarked on this journey with hope to strengthen the University's local profile and visibility and with their first target being Makhado Comprehensive Secondary School. The team visited Makhado Comprehensive Secondary School on Tuesday morning, 5 April 2022, wherein about 50 learners (grade 11 and 12's) were part of the workshop.

The team continued their journey to Khwevha Commercial School, on Thursday morning, 7 April 2022. The team successfully reached out to more than 100 learners. In the afternoon, the team visited Tshivhase secondary school and over 50 learners participated in the workshop.

Mrs Tshikhovhokhovho informed learners about the bursary opportunities that are available for students studying at the University of Venda. She also emphasised that students must apply for Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme (ISFAP) bursary

which also sponsors UNIVEN and provided details on how to access it.

Tshinakaho, a DCF Mentor shared with the learner details on how to apply online using the University website, advised them on the steps to follow till they successfully complete the online application. She also enlightened them about her journey with Dream in Colour Foundation from being a mentee in high school to subsequently becoming a mentor. She highlighted the benefits of being under both the DCF mentorship programme and the success it has birthed over the years of its existence.

Andries Masuku and Vhahone Thaitasa, both fourth year BCom Accounting Sciences students and UNIVEN senior tutors also shared their experiences with the learners including their journey from high school to UNIVEN. "It was not an easy road" expressed Vhahone, "my final grade 11 mathematics results were shocking, I got 48%. I was not sure whether I would be accepted at any university. After my mother's intervention, I went back to the drawing board with my friends, and we then formed a study group".

"I did not really struggle with my accounting and mathematics in high school" said Andries, "As my friends were not really doing well, I started tutoring them in the afternoons after school and on weekends. That taught me that we cannot do this journey alone and that is why even today, Vhahone and I are in a study group to help each other when it gets tough".



Learners were afforded time to give feedback on the overall workshop and ask clarity seeking questions that will further assist them in making informed career decisions. The engagements left the students with a lot of knowledge. We are hoping that this will allow the learners to take informed decisions on their chosen career path. Learners jotted down their details displaying their affirmations of joining the University of Venda in 2023. The team will thus be able to communicate with the learners on different bursary opportunities as well as information on when UNIVEN applications will open.

The committee also hosted a stall at the UNIVEN-Vhembe Phase 2 Careers Exhibition on 5 and 6 May 2022 and was exposed to 140 secondary schools with more than 15000 learners from Vhembe District.

Ms Nembudani believes that the school visits and career exhibitions have given learners the opportunity to gain knowledge about different career opportunities available if they opt to join the Thuthuka Programme. We believe the recruitment drive will be a success and cannot wait to have a pool of new future leaders joining the Accountancy Department in 2023.

Additional schools have shown interest in the career guidance workshops and opened their diaries for the University of Venda and Dream in Colour Foundation to visit when they return for Term 3. Our next stop may be at Shayandima High school and Tshikevha High school.

Additional schools have shown interest in the career guidance workshops and opened their diaries for the University of Venda and Dream in Colour Foundation to visit when they return for Term 3.



Tshinanne Edward Tshiololi did it Again

Tshinanne Edward Tshiololi became the winner of Senate Medallion and a Trophy, and he is the Overall Best Student in the University for the 2022 Winter graduation ceremonies which took place on 14 and 15 July 2022. Tshinanne Tshiololi graduated his Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Statistics during session two of the graduation.

Tshiololi is the Best Student in the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture; Best student in Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Statistics. Mr Tshiololi was flooded with the following awards namely: Dr T.A. Alidzulwi ; Fundi award; Alexander Forbes; NTT Toyota Louis Trichardt; Muofhe Graceland Lodge and Dr. M.E Makhwanya.

Tshiololi is currently a University of Venda student, doing BSc Honours in Statistics. When talking to Nendila Newsletter team, he said "graduating in record time makes me feel extremely excited. This doesn't come easy, it requires a lot of sacrifices and good planning. As for being the overall best UNIVEN student, this brings the joy that one cannot be able to explain to anyone, you literally feel your knees shaking as if you fear something huge, whether done more than once or not you cannot get used to it".

When asked about his secret for making him to achieve all these, he said that " I had a good plan, and that plan was to be always ahead of my schoolwork. If I am given an assignment, I should not wait until the last minute to start working on it. If I have notes that need to be read, I should read them the day I got them, if I don't understand, I should look at the recommended textbooks, if I still don't understand, I should ask the lecturer, tutors or anyone who has taken the path before me. That means that I cannot rest until I understand the content I am failing to understand. Networking with people who know in the spirit of learning more from them is what made me better. And lastly having that plan was not enough, I had to be committed and determined to do everything in the plan at all costs, on top of that I needed to be consistent".

"My message to fellow students is that, always challenge your yesterday self, preparing for a test starts at the beginning of the semester. When the exam comes, you have no pressure and you are less stressed. Start doing your schoolwork on time, consistency is key. If you don't know something, ask somebody



Tshinanne Tshiololi (middle), the overall best UNIVEN student during 2022 Winter graduation standing with the Chancellor Adv Mojanju Gumbi (right) and Vice Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nhambeleni (left)

and the best gift anyone can give to you is explanation of how they get to solutions – not solutions themselves. We are all capable of doing amazing things with our minds, this world needs us", said Tshiololi.

"We are all capable of doing amazing things with our minds, this world needs us"

The Acting Executive Dean in the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture, Prof Jude Odhiambo on behalf of the University congratulated Mr Tshiololi on his extraordinary achievement and for making the University proud against all odds. Mr Tshinanne Edward Tshiololi was the overall best student during the Annual Vice-Chancellor's Student Academic Excellence Awards held in February 2020, for the academic year 2019 top performers, and he became the best student of the then School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences for first level.

Tshiololi is from Tshimbupfe Mianzwi (Dindela) village, outside Vuwani.



Hard work pays: Mr Tshinanne Edward Tshiololi holding two trophies and certificates for his outstanding performance in the academic year 2019



Tshinanne Tshiololi posing for a photo with the Chancellor, Executive Management, Executive Deans, PhD graduates and members of the academic procession during session two of the graduation ceremonies

Thoho-Ya-Nzie Feeding Scheme Makes a Huge Impact in Helping Students who are in-Need



Student Counselling and Career Development Unit (SCCDU) would like to send words of appreciation to the University community and students for opening their doors to our peer helpers when they went out recently asking for donations. "Your contribution towards "Thoho-ya-nzie" feeding scheme has made a huge impact in helping those students who are in-need", said Dr Refilwe Pila-Nemutandani who is the Head of SCCDU. Contributions were received in a form of monetary and non-perishables. A total amount collected by peer helpers was R2190.50 in which groceries in a form of non-perishable items were bought. Beneficiaries of the scheme who are needy and deserving students have already started receiving food parcels, which are given on monthly basis until they get financial support from bursary schemes.

A student enrolled for BSc Nutrition whose name is known to Nendila newsletter team, reported that she had financial challenges including having to worry about where to get a meal for the next day. She said the

scheme "Thoho-ya-nzie" helped her a lot because she almost left her academic studies. She further said, because of the scheme, she is now positive and looking forward to completing her studies. She continued to say the scheme has given her and other students hope and has made a difference in their lives. Beneficiaries would like to thank all donors for supporting their vision and health.

Students can consult with student counsellor at C-Block Office no. 35 next to Social Work Department or they talk to peer helpers who are peer counsellors and enquire about the service.

"Thoho-ya-nzie" is a feeding scheme that was initiated in collaboration between SCCDU and SRC for assisting students who are from disadvantaged background, with no financial support and those struggling to have a meal. The scheme aimed at providing social relief to those students who are needy and deserving. The scheme is depending on donations from students and staff members within the university.

UNIVEN Delegation Attends the IKUDU Leadership Summit in Sienna, Italy and The Hague, Amsterdam, Netherlands

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) delegation consisting of Professor Nosisi Feza, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC) Research and Post-Graduate Studies (RPS), Dr Segun Obadire, Acting Director International Relations and Partnerships, Professor Bongani Bantwini, Executive Dean Faculty of Humanities Social Sciences and Education, Dr Valeria Baloyi, Senior Lecturer Department of Psychology, Dr Emaculate Ingwani, Head of Department Urban and Regional Planning, Dr Lufuluvhi Mudimeli, Head of Department Human Sciences and Mr Nsizwazonke Yende, Lecturer Department of Arts and Social Sciences, attended the IKUDU leadership summit held at the University of Sienna, Italy from 7-9 June 2022 and engaged in exchange visits at the Hague University of Applied Sciences (THUAS) and Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences.

The discussions in the summit were centered around curriculum renewal for internationalisation and activities in the summit prioritised strategies geared towards the sustainability of the Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) project and encouraged alignment with the university's strategic planning. Additionally, the summit enlightened delegates on some of the best practices of internationalising curriculum and learning from each partnering University.

The meeting discussed various strategies that could help to institutionalise the internationalisation of the curriculum in the various universities. Some of the strategies discussed included awareness-raising to enhancing buy-in from academics and leadership at the University. The meeting further deliberated on connecting COIL to

a renewed curriculum. In this regard, it was noted that CHETL has a central role to play in the COIL project and in the infusion of international standards into the existing curriculum at the University.

The Working Group 1 (WG1) met to reflect on the work which is completed thus far. In this session, the group deliberated on different activities including, stakeholder model, Appreciative Inquiry (AI) report, Babylon survey and roundtable debate. The session also looked at the next steps and the deliverables. During this session, the team also prepared for the world cafe, which was hosted by round table tandems from WG1. UNIVEN partnered with Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences (AUAS) to prepare deliberations and discussion with the group of non WG1 participants. The concept or a theme that UNIVEN-AUAS engaged on

was 'Comprehensive Internationalisation'.

During the Working Group 2 (WG2) discussion a presentation was made about COIL, what it entails and the benefits for the students. It was indicated that COIL involves cross-border collaboration with people from different backgrounds and cultures, students engage online, the interaction can be synchronous or asynchronous and it is driven by a set of internationalised learning outcomes aimed at developing global perspectives and/or fostering students' intercultural competences. It was further pointed out that COIL should have a reflective component that fosters students to think critically about their interactions. Delegates were also reminded on the basic elements of COIL which include two or more academics, lots of planning and training, a COIL date, two student groups and a COIL course.



UNIVEN delegation at the Summit: Front Row L-R: Professor Bongani Bantwini, Professor Nosisi Feza and Dr Segun Obadire. Back Row L-R: Dr Emaculate Ingwani, Dr Lufuluvhi Mudimeli, Dr Valeria Baloyi, Mr Nsizwazonke Yende.



UNIVEN delegation demonstrating their map on connecting COIL for curriculum renewal. Recommendations for UNIVEN COIL

- Establish champions of the COIL project and support coilers
- Seek for academics and leadership buy-in on the COIL project
- Increase visibility of COIL through workshops
- Faculty workshops and COIL champions in faculties required.
- COIL Africa
- COIL with other SA institutions and request partnerships in workshops
- COIL infrastructure required
- CHETL be involved in the COIL project

For more information contact Dr Valeria Baloyi at valeria.baloyi@univen.ac.za

Univen Hosts the South Africa-Sweeden University Forum (SASUF) Projects Information Sharing Session



Meeting Delegates

Mr Thabo Dikgale, Partnership Officer from the International Relations and Partnerships Directorate, chaired the meeting. Mr Dikgale welcomed the meeting participants and indicated that the SASUF-UNIVEN partnership will continue to strengthen UNIVEN's collaboration with its Swedish counterparts. Mr Dikgale noted that such initiatives are critical to the achievement of the University's Mission of producing graduates that are locally relevant and globally competitive.

Prof Sonto Maputle from the Faculty of Health Sciences provided the purpose of the meeting. In her intervention Prof Maputle underscored that the SASUF platform gave her the opportunity to network with 14 Swedish universities. She noted that SASUF is a transformative project uniting 38 universities from across Sweden and South Africa bringing together leading researchers, teachers, students, university leaders and other stakeholders. Prof Maputle concluded by stating that this programme provides the UNIVEN community with an opportunity to develop joint solutions to the challenges posed by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030.

UNIVEN has 12 projects participating in SASUF, three of which were presented during the session as well as a presentation from the SASUF Student Network. The first presenter was Ms Fatima Peters, Lecturer in the Department of Psychology. Ms Peters explained that the collaboration has been beneficial for the students and staff members. She indicated that through SASUF her students have increased their networks and have gained access to national research support and can now connect students to online support.

In giving her second presentation, Prof Maputle, noted that the SASUF programme has played a crucial role in the implementation of two projects that she is currently leading. The two projects currently being led by Prof Maputle are titled "*Pregnancy outcomes of women with anaemia in rural areas of Vhembe District, South Africa*" and the *Factors associated with anaemia in pregnancy: A case study of Matibidi village,*

Ehlanzi District in Mpumalanga, South Africa. Further to the research, Prof Maputle noted that two Masters students were supported with registration fees towards their degrees. In conclusion Prof Maputle highlighted that they were busy finalising another project titled "*Prevention of maternal anaemia and the impact of an anaemia care programme for young women in a low-income setting. A pilot study in Uganda with synergy effects in South Africa*" which was submitted to the Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT) in April 2022 (participating countries are Sweden, Uganda, and South Africa).

Mr Josph Mundadi, a UNIVEN PhD student and UNISU president presented on the three SASUF Student Network projects which focused on Food Security, Mental Health, and Climate Change (deforestation education and awareness). Mr Mundadi noted that the objectives of the SASUF student network and the proposed projects were to promote mobility of students and researchers between South Africa, enhanced research and educational collaborations between South Africa and Sweden especially concerning sustainable development and the SDGs and the reinforcement of existing funding mechanisms for research, education, and innovation as well as the development of new funding schemes focused on student research.

The other project that was presented was by Prof Lizzy Netshikweta, from the Department of Advanced Nursing Science. The project focused on the *Sustainable Prevention of Obesity through the Creation of Childhood Obesity Prevention Zones (Echo Zones)*. Prof Netshikweta highlighted that obesity is a major challenge amongst South African youth and it needs to be addressed sustainably. In this regard, she noted that the objective of the Echo zones project is to execute, for the first time, an approach that halts the current increase in childhood obesity, creates a sustainable downward trend in childhood obesity and develops scalable solutions for the prevention of childhood obesity in children aged 0-6

years to be accomplished within 10 years. In conclusion, Prof Netshikweta, outlined that the project is still in the proposal stage, and encouraged emerging researchers at the University to join the project team.

Ms Helin Bäckman Kartal, the SASUF coordinator from the division for Global Partnerships at Uppsala University delivered the last presentation. Ms Kartal mentioned that SASUF has 38 partnerships with 14 from Sweden and 24 from South Africa. Adding that SASUF has connected over 3000 researchers, students, university leaders, and funding agencies across both countries in seminars and workshops. She indicated that more than 140 workshops, seminars, and visits have been organised independently by research groups and students in both countries. Highlights from Ms Kartal's presentation include the following:

The call for Workshops for SASUF Goes Digital is open!

You can read more about the call here, as well

as to get access to the application document for the workshops/sessions.

Timeline for SASUF 2022-2024

To access the timeline for the SASUF main events and happenings during 2022-2024.

Partner Universities in SASUF

In conclusion Ms Kartal outlined that SASUF has developed a student network administrative structure (Student Board) where the University of Venda is represented by Mr Joseph Mudandi. The SASUF student Network has representatives from all partner universities and meets every 6th week virtually. The network will be hosting a physical conference in the coming years and UNIVEN students are encouraged to join the network. Ms Kartal concluded by noting that the SASUF student network themes will be focusing on Climate change, Gender equality, Food security (food gardens), Decolonisation, and Mental health. UNIVEN students who wish to participate in the student network can contact the International Relations and Partnerships (IRP) Directorate.



Exchange of Gifts after the meeting: From left to right: Mr Thabo Dikgale, Ms Fatima Peters, Prof Sonto Maputle, Ms Helin Bäckman Kartal and Ms Fanny Jonsson.

ELEPHANT Project Organises a Training Workshop themed One Health in Theory



The ELEPHANT project recently held a training workshop under the theme 'One Health in Theory'. This training workshop took place at the Southern African Wildlife College and was attended by participants from SA HEIs (Universities of Pretoria, Mpumalanga, Venda, Fort Hare and Limpopo), international HEIs (Universities of Utrecht and Bologna).

The presentations, discussions and activities during field visits demonstrated that symbiotic relationships exist between humans, livestock, wildlife, and the environment. In these relationships, human health is dependant and can influence the health of other three components. This illustrated the necessity to include all these components in our investigations and the fight against infectious diseases. Practical exercises during the workshop trained participants to formulate objectives and research questions for 'One Health' based on perceived problems and participants experiences. It is anticipated that participants will infuse 'One Health' approach in their research activities.

Through this project, two staff members and one Postdoctoral fellow were given the opportunity to be trained on these One Health principles – Dr Jean Pierre Kabue is a Senior lecturer in the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology and part of the One Health research group; Dr Mpumelelo Rikhotso, a Postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology and part of the One Health research group and Mr Avhafunani Justice Netshipale, Lecturer in the Animal Sciences Department.

We would like to hear from you!

Nendila is your communication channel.

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