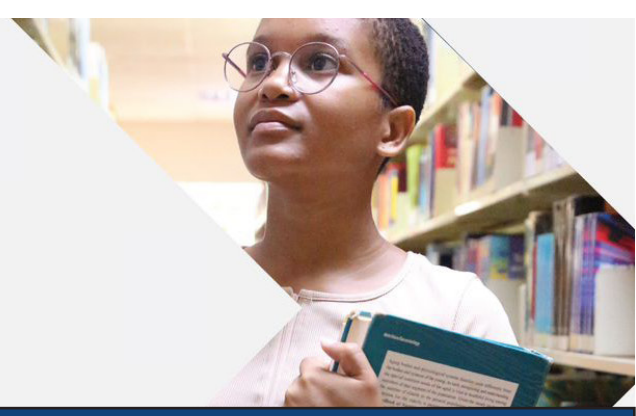




University of Venda
Creating Future Leaders

UNIVEN Weekly e-Newsletter



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UNIVEN donates 338 desktop computers to 32 schools and 3 NGOs



On Monday, 16 September 2024, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) donated 338 desktop computers to 32 schools and 3 NGOs within Vhembe District Municipality. The schools that benefited from this donation, are based in the following communities: Sinthumule, Madonsi, Manenzhe, Tshivhase, Masia, Rambuda, Nhjakanhjaka, Mulenzhe, Nweli, Malavuwe, Mbahe, Muraga, Nesengani Traditional Authority and Mphaphuli Traditional Authority. The handing over ceremony took place at the University Sports Hall.

Representing the university, the Director of Community Engagement, Entrepreneurship, Inclusive Innovation and Commercialisation, Prof Vhonani Netshandama mentioned that education is a societal agenda, therefore, as a university,

we always knew that we have a role to play in making sure that our communities are taken care of.

When handing over these computers, the Director Information Technology Services, Mr Sam Khoza indicated that one of the quickest ways to empower our communities is to give them technical devices that will assist them to learn. He said he believes that the donation of these desktop computers will help to shape and nurture the University's future leaders.

Director Supply Chain Management and Expenditure, Ms Beauty Mutheiwana said as a university, we commit to assist our communities as stated in the university's strategic documents.

UNIVEN Choir Triumphs Mapungubwe Choral Festival with Outstanding Dedication and Resilience



The University of Venda Choir achieved a remarkable victory at the Mapungubwe Choral Festival, held on 14 September 2024 at the University of Venda. The choir proudly brought home a trophy and an appreciation certificate, marking their exceptional talent and dedication to the choral arts. This event, hosted by Vhembe Sport, Arts and Culture, celebrated the rich cultural heritage of the region, and the UNIVEN Choir stood out among the participants with their stellar performance.

Their victory is a testament to the sacrifice and dedication of every choir member, as well as their shared interest in preserving and promoting choral music. Through their hard work and perseverance, the UNIVEN Choir continues to shine, inspiring many with their unwavering spirit and extraordinary musical talent.

What makes this achievement even more noteworthy is the limited preparation time the choir had. Coming off a busy schedule, they had just performed at the Graduation on 30 August 2024 at Malamulele Town Hall, followed by the Spring Graduation at the University of Venda on 06 September 2024. Despite these back-to-back events, the choir managed to prepare for the Mapungubwe Festival in less than a week, demonstrating their commitment, passion, and resilience.



Universal Greening Organisation brings stakeholders together to celebrate the 2024 Arbor Month



On Friday, 13 September 2024, the University of Venda (UNIVEN), government and non-government organisations including the surrounding communities came together to participate in the Universal Greening Organisation (UGO) Fun Walk from UNIVEN main gate to Thavhani Mall. This fun walk was preceded by the tree planting ceremony. This initiative was held in honour of National Arbor Month where speakers highlighted the important role that is played by trees and forests in our lives. UGO, renowned for planting over 1,000 trees since 7 September 2024 demonstrated its commitment to building environmentally sustainable societies.

The event kickstarted with a warm welcome from Programme, Director Mr Gabriel Temudzani who addressed various dignitaries from government and non-government organisations including the University representatives. The gathering included performances by traditional dancers, and musical acts by local artists.

Deputy Dean of Research and Postgraduate Studies in the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education at UNIVEN, Prof Takalani Mashau emphasised the institution's role in fostering environmental stewardship and encouraged students to engage in research.

MEC for Economic Development and Tourism, Mr Tshitereke Matibe described the month of September as Heritage Month and noted the significance of local trees, such as the Baobab and Eucalyptus saligna tree which is the tallest tree that is found in Tzaneen, Makgobaskloof.



The event also celebrated local talent and community involvement, featuring performances by grandmothers showcasing fitness activities. Twelve UNIVEN students who were sponsored to travel to Botswana for global environmental studies, underscoring the commitment to educational and environmental advancement were acknowledged. The day concluded with a collective resolve to protect and cherish South Africa's natural heritage. Participants were discouraged from cutting trees.



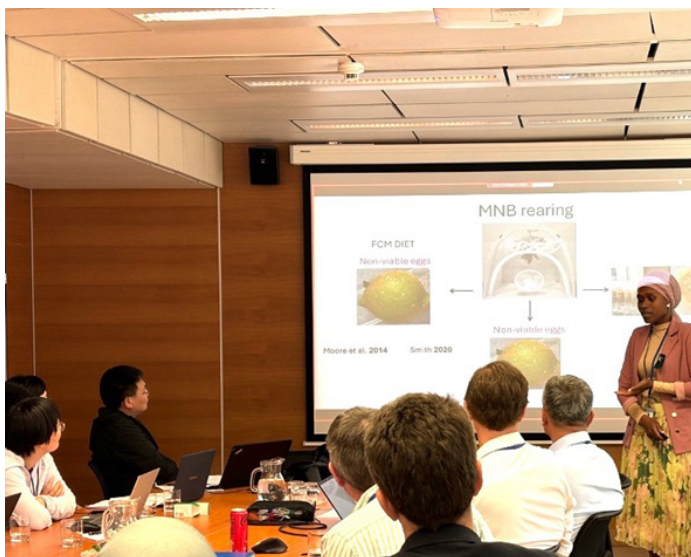
Students who will be travelling to Botswana for global environmental studies

Post-doctoral fellow in NRF SARChI chair visit Austria



Dr Mulalo Muluvhahotho Post-doctoral fellow NRF-SARChI & Biological Sciences

Dr Muluvhahotho's interactions with the participants underscored the pivotal role of insect rearing in the development of biocontrol methods, as these methods offer sustainable and environmentally friendly pest control solutions that reduce chemical reliance, minimise environmental impacts, and foster biodiversity. She expressed particular admiration for the innovative approaches and cutting-edge research being conducted globally to improve the efficiency of Integrated Pest Management programmes through insect rearing. A key takeaway from her experience was the recognition that knowledge exchange between researchers and industrial professionals is critical for advancing environmental sustainability and effective pest management. Dr Muluvhahotho noted that this experience significantly enhanced her professional expertise and reaffirmed her dedication to contributing to meaningful scientific innovation. The insect rearing research at SARChI is ongoing under the leadership of Dr Muluvhahotho and several projects planned. Dr Muluvhahotho works closely with Prof Des Conlong and Dr Elsje Joubert on insect rearing. This current project is funded by the SARChI chair awarded to Prof LH Swanepoel at UNIVEN and continued funding from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).



On the photo above: Dr Muluvhahotho captivating the audience with an engaging presentation on rearing the macadamia nut borer insect in Insect Rearing Unit at University of Venda

At the Vienna International Centre in Austria, where the meeting was held for five days

Faculty of Science Engineering and Agriculture and GTCI host the University of Cape Town, SA-CERN Group



which can be used to improve the data science research at the University of Venda as a historically disadvantaged higher education institution. He further indicated that the relationship has started few years ago when there was the National Theoretical Institute of Physics and now the National Institute for Theoretical and Computational Sciences (NITheCS) which UNIVEN falls under the northern node, which is led by the Northwest University.

The Green Technology Confucius Institute (GTCI) in collaboration with the Faculty of Science Engineering and Agriculture (FSEA), Departments of Physics and Mathematical and Computational Sciences facilitated the visit by the University of Cape Town, South Africa Nuclear Research and the European Organisation for Nuclear Research, (CERN), (SA-CERN) Group led by Professor Will Horowitz to drive the collaboration on Data Science and Nuclear Research. The European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) is where the physicists and engineers are probing the fundamental structure of the universe.

The Mathematical and Computational Sciences together with the Department of Physics coordinates the Masters in e-Science at the University of Venda. The students normally use data, sometimes obtained from online platforms or from different sources. The collaboration between the SA-CERN and the FSEA will allow the students to access data from SA-CERN. The SA-CERN programme gives scientists and research students in South Africa access to the data obtained at CERN and allows them to take part in the running of experiments in Geneva. The outcomes are world class research, participation in global science, high level capacity development, innovation and technology transfer leading to competitive industry and infrastructure, the attraction of high quality young South Africans into the Science and Technology system and the development of the public understanding of science.

The Executive Dean, Prof Potgieter highlighted the importance of this initiative and said it was one of its kind as the faculty is moving on establishing the data science centre which will assist the students and researchers to analyse the data from different sources. Professor Maluta added that the initiative has been long overdue, as SA-CERN has data-

Dr Simiso Moyo illustrated the importance of the relation between the mathematical sciences and the theoretical physics and the contributions of these two areas to the fields of data science. He further illustrated the interlink of these two subjects and the importance of data science research towards the e-Science and new development of the data science in the department of Mathematical and Computational Sciences.

The workshop lasted for two days from 02-03 September 2024 and it covered different topics related to data science and machine learning. Students managed to go through the different programmes under the SA-CERN, like Introduction to the Standard Model and particle physics, Introduction to Masterclass Concept like: Data handling, Data Science, invariant mass, charge to mass ratio, particle identification,

Programmes under ALICE Masterclass were Data observation and handling, Measurement of kaons and lambdas and observation of strangeness enhancement in high-energy nuclear collision.

2025 UNIVEN Online Applications for Admission and Hostel Accommodation are underway

Prospective students who intend to enroll for programmes of their choice with the University of Venda (UNIVEN) in the 2025 academic year, are hereby advised that the process of ONLINE applications for Admission and Hostel Accommodation is still open and will close on Friday, 27 September 2024.

Do not hesitate to apply online on or before the closing date to avoid frustration in the year 2025. To Apply, visit UNIVEN Website: www.univen.ac.za

If you spot anything out of the ordinary on campus - contact the University Hotline by calling toll free number 0800 212 755 or email: univenhotline@tip-offs.com

Improper conduct includes the following...

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