

Nendila

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VENDA



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UNIVEN Campus Health Bids Farewell to Peer Educators



On Photo: Group photo of Peer Educators posing with their certificates

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) Campus Health hosted a special farewell event for its dedicated Peer Educators who have been instrumental in promoting health and wellness across the University community. The event celebrated the outstanding contributions of these student leaders, who have worked tirelessly to support their peers through education and advocacy on various health matters. The farewell function took place on Monday, 18 November 2024, at the University Auditorium.



On Photo: Mr Edward Dongola, Head: Campus Health

In his welcome remarks, Mr Edward Dongola, Head: Campus Health warmly welcomed attendees, encouraging them to enjoy the moment and expressing his gratitude for their presence. He congratulated Peer Educators on completing their examinations, acknowledging their efforts and wishing them success. Mr Dongola reflected on the bittersweet nature of saying goodbye to the outgoing Educators. He continued to highlight their training in vital areas like reproductive health, mental health, and gender-based violence, emphasising their role as positive ambassadors. As he acknowledged mutual learning, he encouraged them to use their knowledge to impact their communities and peers meaningfully. Finally, he expressed appreciation to the University and Campus Health for their support.

Ms Maggie Hlungwani, HIV Coordinator at Campus Health Clinic, delivered a heartfelt address, expressing gratitude to Peer Educators and Campus Health workers for their commitment throughout the year. She emphasised the importance of maintaining integrity, being role models, and sharing knowledge about health and wellness, including issues like HIV prevention and general well-being. "The event marks a celebration of your efforts; the distribution of certificates is the recognition of your contributions. I encourage you to continue impacting lives positively, train others, and uphold the values instilled during your service." Said Ms Hlungwani as she rendered her item.



On Photo: Ms Maggie Hlungwani, HIV Coordinator at Campus Health Clinic

Ms Alvina Muhali reflected on the dedication and impact of Peer Educators, expressing pride and gratitude for their hard work and commitment. She said despite initial doubts, the educators proved themselves through their enthusiasm, energy, and unwavering efforts to promote healthy living. She said they were instrumental in spreading health messages and served as representatives of the campus clinic in places it could not reach. Ms Muhali acknowledged their role as "Health Lights," shining brightly in campaigns and dialogues around campus.

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In her message of support, Prof Angelina Maphula, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychology delivered an inspiring message emphasising the importance of living each day with purpose and dedication talking to all Educators. She stressed the value of physical, social, and mental well-being, and urged individuals to care for their health, to choose their friends wisely, and speak up during tough times. Prof Maphula said the success, they assert, stems from discipline, self-belief, and learning from their mistakes. She also highlighted the dangers of self-doubt, blaming others, living in the past, and people-pleasing, instead advocating for self-confidence, resilience, and the courage to pursue personal goals and encouraged the Peer Educators to embrace their unique potential, as well as making wise choices, and build a future defined by their vision, and ended her message with a heartfelt wish for their success and happiness.



On Photo: Ms Alvina Muhali, Health Promoter

Ms Zoey Maluleke, a UNIVEN student who was a Peer Educator and Deputy Project Officer delivered a farewell speech, reflecting on the journey of growth, resilience, and impactful achievements she has shared as a Peer Educator. Ms Maluleke expressed her deep gratitude for the support of her peers and Campus Health staff

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members; and highlighted the bonds and lessons formed along the way. She also acknowledged the invaluable contributions of every member. Maluleke encouraged them to carry the spirit of empathy, leadership, and dedication forward.

During the ceremony, certificates of appreciation were handed over to the Peer Educators, recognising their commitment and invaluable service to the campus health initiatives. The event was a memorable occasion, bringing together students, staff, and the department to acknowledge the efforts of those who have made a positive impact on campus well-being. The Peer Educators have been instrumental around campus in raising awareness on topics such as mental health and wellness, empowering fellow students to make informed decisions about their health.



On Photo: Prof Angelina Maphula, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychology



On Photo: Ms Zoey Maluleke



On Photo: Ms Tshildzi Masia (Professional Nurse) giving vote of thanks



Professor Tendai Chari Achieves C1 NRF Rating status



On Photo: Professor Tendai Chari

Professor Tendai Chari, an Associate Professor of Media Studies in the Department of English, Media Studies and Linguistics has obtained a C1 NRF rating. He moved from C3. C1 Rating is awarded to a researcher whom "All the reviewers are firmly convinced that the applicant is an established researcher" and regarded by "some or the overriding majority of the reviewers as a scholar who has attained a solid international standing in the field of study".

Professor Chari holds a Masters Degree in Media and Communication Studies from the University of Zimbabwe and a PhD in Media Studies from Wits University. His academic career started at the University of Zimbabwe where he was Head of the Media Programme for eight years before joining the University of Venda in 2008.

The NRF rating affirms the extensive impact of Prof Chari's research work, which largely focuses on political communication and media representation, with a broadened horizon on the interface between digital media and politics, data journalism and adoption of artificial intelligence in African newsrooms.

He has participated in and read academic papers at over 65 local and international conferences and has produced over 80 publications in the form of journal articles in peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, and books. Prof Chari has co-edited 6 books, the latest being "Military, Politics and Democratisation in Southern Africa:

The Quest for Political Transition" (Palgrave Macmillan) and "Communication Rights in Africa: Emerging Discourses and Perspectives" (Routledge/Taylor & Francis). In addition, Prof Chari has supervised over 58 postgraduate students to completion.

Among Prof Chari's numerous awards, grants and other academic accolades, are the Norwegian Agency for Development Corporation (NORAD) scholarship, the Norwegian Programme for Development Research and Education (NUFU) scholarship, the African Peacebuilding Network (APN) Individual Grant (2017) and the APN Book Manuscript Publishing Award (2018). He is also a Fellow of the African Humanities Programme (AHP) of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). He sits on the advisory boards of several local and international journals and was appointed an Associate Editor of the Journal of African Media Studies (JAMS) in 2024.

Prof Chari attributes his research trajectory and success mainly to insights gleaned from fruitful engagements with colleagues in the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education, and with his highly motivated and exceptionally talented students as well as his expansive conference paper presentations around the world, all of which have broadened the scope of his research interests which are anchored on transformative decoloniality. "On behalf of the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education, I would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Professor Chari on being awarded the prestigious C1 NRF Rating.

This remarkable achievement is a testament to your outstanding contributions to your field, as well as your commitment to advancing knowledge through rigorous research and scholarship. The C1 NRF Rating reflects not only your expertise and academic excellence, but also the significant impact your work has had on both the national and international academic communities. It is an honour for the Faculty to have scholars like you, whose dedication to advancing research and education continues to inspire us all.

Once again, congratulations, Professor Chari. We look forward to your continued success and the further enhancement of the Faculty's reputation under your leadership and scholarship," said the Acting Executive Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education, Professor Tawanda Runhare.

ective Committee. Dr Mativandela expressed her enthusiasm for the opportunity to lead the hosting of such a prestigious event, highlighting the potential impact the conference will have on the academic community.

"The 2025 SAAIR Conference will provide a critical platform for scholars, researchers, higher education professionals, and institutional leaders to engage with cutting-edge research and best practices in institutional planning, quality assurance, learner analytics, and Higher Education Management Information Systems (HEMIS)," said Dr Mativandela. "We look forward to facilitating robust discussions that will contribute to the advancement of higher education institutions across Southern Africa."

The conference, scheduled for November 2025, promises to be a momentous occasion for the university and the region. It will offer a unique opportunity for networking and learning, bringing together experts from across Southern Africa to discuss the latest trends in institutional research and share innovative approaches to improving the management and operation of higher education institutions.

UNIVEN's Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Bernard Nthambeleni, also expressed excitement about hosting the event for the first time. "It is with great pride that we welcome the opportunity to host the 32nd SAAIR Conference. This marks a significant milestone in the University's ongoing commitment to advancing institutional research and contributing to the broader higher education landscape," said Professor Nthambeleni. "We are eager to showcase our campus and facilities, while also creating a dynamic space for collaboration and the exchange of ideas that will shape the future of higher education in Southern Africa. We look forward to welcoming delegates and experts from all corners of the region to UNIVEN in 2025."

The Southern African Association for Institutional Research (SAAIR) is a professional body that supports the development and application of institutional research across the higher education sector. Founded in 1994, SAAIR promotes research, analysis, and the application of management information systems to improve the planning, management, and operation of higher education institutions.

Through conferences, training, and professional development, SAAIR fosters collaboration and the sharing of best practices among higher education professionals. The association encourages the use of interdisciplinary methodologies to improve the quality and effectiveness of decision-making, resource allocation, and institutional planning in the higher education sector.

University of Venda to Make History by Hosting 32nd Southern African Association for Institutional Research (SAAIR) Conference in 2025

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) is proud to announce that it will host the 32nd Southern African Association for Institutional Research (SAAIR) Conference for the first time in 2025. The announcement was made during the 2024 SAAIR Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 07 November 2024 at Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) in Pretoria, Gauteng.

The 2025 conference will be chaired by Dr Sannah Patience Mativandela, Director of Institutional Planning and Quality Assurance (IPQA) at UNIVEN, and a current member of the SAAIR Ex-



On photo: 2024-2026 SAAIR Executive Committee (EXCO) members: L-R: Benjamin Ntshabele (SMU); Innocent Mamvura (WITS); Munienge Mbodila (WSU); Hossein Karakani (UP); Ashton Maherry (SAIDE); Valentino Maroga (TUT); Elizabeth Booi (UWC and SAAIR President); and Sannah Mativandela (UNIVEN)

Mr Mfaniseni Mnguni Elected to ACUHO-I SAC Executive Board



On photo: Mr Mfaniseni Mnguni

Mr Mfaniseni Mnguni has been elected as an Executive Board member of the Association of College and University Housing Officers- International South African Chapter (ACUHO-I SAC) for the 2025-2027 term. This prestigious appointment underscores his longstand-

ing commitment to advancing student well-being and success within South Africa's higher education landscape.

A passionate advocate for student welfare, Mr Mnguni has dedicated much of his career to im-

proving student housing and fostering stronger connections between students and administrative decision-making. His election to the ACUHO-I SAC Executive Board is a significant milestone, not only in his professional journey but also in his continued efforts to enhance campus life at the University of Venda and beyond.

Through his leadership, Mr Mnguni has substantially contributed to creating safe, inclusive, and supportive environments that enrich students' academic and personal experiences. His work resonates across the institutions he has served, impacting both the immediate university community and the broader field of student housing in Southern Africa.

ACUHO-I SAC is a vital organisation that advocates for excellence in campus housing and residence life services across South Africa. The chapter's work supports student accommodation through collaborative engagement, professional development, and the sharing of best practices. It also plays an essential role in shaping policies and setting standards for university housing across the Southern African region.

Mr Azwidowi Mukheli, Dean of Students at the University of Venda, congratulated Mr Mnguni on this well-deserved achievement, praising his dedication and encouraging other staff members to aspire similar excellence.

TIP OFFS

If you spot anything out of the ordinary on campus

Contact the University Hotline

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.

December Upcoming Event




INVITATION

Vice-Chancellor's Year-End Function and Retirees Event

The Vice-Chancellor & Principal Prof. Bernard Nthambeleni cordially invites you to the Year-end function and Retirees event on 11 December 2024 at the Auditorium.

 11 December 2024

 University Auditorium

 9:00 am

Prof. Bernard Nthambeleni
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

We would like to hear from you!

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