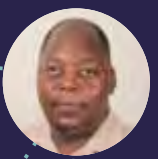
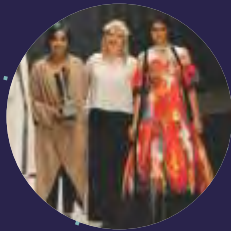


DUT



A GLANCE  
2018

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



# VISION

A preferred University for developing leadership in technology and productive citizenship.

# MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to excel through:

- A teaching and learning environment that values and supports the University community.
- Promoting excellence in learning and teaching, technology transfer and applied research.
- External engagement that promotes innovation and entrepreneurship through collaboration and partnership.



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# INTRODUCING **DUT** DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

The Durban University of Technology (DUT), formed by merging Technikon Natal and ML Sultan Technikon in 2002, is a University with a rich history (originally established in 1907 as the Durban Technical Institute) at the forefront of higher education, technological training and relevant research.

More than 30 000 students a year attend lectures on five campuses in Durban and two campuses in Pietermaritzburg. DUT intertwines dual strands of student-centredness and multi-dimensional engagement into its framework. The University designs its programmes, infrastructure, social interactions and technologies to meet the needs of its students and shapes its teaching and learning and research to support economic development, engagement with local and national government and improving the quality of life of people within its communities.

A period of compulsory experiential learning provides working experience during the courses offered, thus graduates are prepared to make an active contribution to the demands of a changing workplace and society.

On the other hand, its drive towards becoming an entrepreneurial University is revolutionary in that it is not only preparing graduates to fill job posts, but also to create them.

DUT offers courses and programmes leading to officially recognised higher education degrees such as pre-bachelor degrees (i.e. certificates, diplomas, and associate or foundation degrees), Bachelor, Master's and Doctorate degrees in several areas of study. Its faculties include Accounting and Informatics, Applied Science, Arts and Design, Engineering and the Built Environment, Health Sciences and Management Sciences.

Academic staff are strongly encouraged to pursue the highest possible qualification in their field, and the University is a member of the International Association of Universities, thereby retaining high standards on an international level.

This publication will give you a high-level synopsis of some of the key highlights from the year 2018!



# DUT WELCOMES ITS NEW CHANCELLOR: MS NONKULULEKO NYEMBEZI

NOXOLO MEMELA, WAHEEDA PETERS, NDUDUZO NDLOVU

The Durban University of Technology installed its new Chancellor, Ms Nonkululeko Nyembezi in March 2018.

Ms Nyembezi takes over from Judge Vuka Tshabalala. Currently, the Chief Executive Officer of Ichor Coal N.V., an international mining company focusing on thermal coal production in South Africa; Nyembezi has grown to become one of the most respected woman in business in the world. Ms Nyembezi has navigated a terrain that is still overwhelmingly male-dominated with seemingly effortless ease, excelling in the process with long strings of firsts following her trail. Known as South Africa's 'woman of steel', because of her successful career in the engineering field, with no doubt she has proven resilience in the high-demand corporate environment.

On her appointment, as DUT's new Chancellor, Ms Nyembezi, said it was a singular honour and privilege for her to be accepting her role as Chancellor at DUT, adding that her recognition from her peers was a gift, one that she did not take for granted. Confessing to doing mathematics for fun when she was at school, and for whom excellence was a habit, not an act, she made it clear that it was just a measure of good luck that propelled her to success. She stressed that the combination of hard work, high standards of excellence, and an astute recognition of how her engineering skills could propel her at a time when few women were excelling in the field, saw her leap form success to success.

Addressing attendees of her inauguration, Nyembezi spoke of success stating that she had been asked by many young people what is the formula for success. "Unfortunately, the answer to that question is there is none. Success is not a generic term, it means different things to different people. So, for example, in my case, I never spent half a minute



Pictured: Ms Nonkululeko Nyembezi (DUT Chancellor), Mr Wiseman Madinane (DUT Chairperson of Council) and Professor Thandwa Mthembu (DUT Vice-Chancellor) share a light moment of laughter on the night of the Chancellor's inauguration.

formulating a private plan that I will be CEO in five years or Chancellor at DUT in 10 years. Such a thing, I have never done. My particular story has been falling into things," she said.

In her conclusion, Nyembezi highlighted that she was thrilled to be part of DUT and to contribute in every way and watch it grow from strength to strength.

Her term of office as DUT Chancellor commenced on 1 April 2018 and will end 31 March 2022.

**Quick facts on the New Chancellor:  
Ms Nonkululeko Nyembezi**

1. On 1 January 2018, she became the first woman to be appointed the Chairperson of the board of Alexander Forbes in its 81-year history.
2. She is a mother of two.
3. She was born in Pietermaritzburg and grew up in Claremont, Durban.
4. In 2012, she was listed 97 in Forbes list of the world's 100 most powerful women.
5. Has a BSc Honours degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, a Master's degree in the same discipline from the California Institute of Technology, and an MBA from Open University in the United Kingdom.



# DR MLANGENI EXPRESSES GRATITUDE TO DUT

NDUDUZO NDLOVU

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) hosted a celebratory gala dinner at the Southern Sun Golden Horse Casino in Pietermaritzburg on 26 April 2018 to honour its honorary doctorate recipient, Dr Andrew Mlangeni.

Speaking during the dinner, Dr Mlangeni expressed his sincere gratitude for the honour that was bestowed on him by the University. "I see this as a huge achievement because in the past the apartheid regime did not recognise some of the efforts or achievements by black leaders, it is only now that our educational institutions are breaking away from what the National Party used to do. They are now getting to recognise the contribution made by some of us. We are really thankful for that, thank you DUT for recognising those who came before me and saying Mlangeni you have made a contribution, we are where we are today partly because of your contribution, and that makes me feel very happy," said Dr Mlangeni.

DUT Council Chairperson, Wiseman Madinane said the DUT community is honoured to have a rare opportunity to honour a living legend in the struggle for the liberation of our country. "Your immense contribution to our society renders this award but a small token of appreciation for your sacrifice and commitment to our country and fellow countrymen. Your role in the struggle for the liberation of South Africa cost you 26 years of your precious life, spending most of that time in prison after the Rivonia Trial was concluded. This makes it a supreme honour for DUT to award this honorary doctorate to the true son of the soil such as yourself. DUT prides itself in recognition of worthy recipients of the honorary doctorate, and we are proud to refer to you as one of our own. We are deeply humbled by your acceptance of this award," said Madinane.



Picture: Dr Andrew Mlangeni receives a token of appreciation from the Durban University of Technology (DUT) Chancellor, Ms Nonkululeko Nyembezi and they are flanked by DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Thandwa Mthembu (far left) and DUT Council Chairperson, Mr Wiseman Madinane (far right) during the gala dinner hosted by DUT at the Southern Sun Golden Horse Casino in Pietermaritzburg on 26 April 2018.

KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo who was one of the dignitaries who attended this dinner, applauded DUT for the honour it has conferred on Dr Mlangeni, and also expressed his appreciation for the remarkable role that was played by Dr Mlangeni in the liberation of our country.

"When I received this invitation I did not hesitate to come here because of the immense contribution of Baba Mlangeni. I did not hesitate to come and see you in person, I have seen you in many places, but today is a special day because I get to share a table with you. It is a great honour and privilege for me to share a table with uBaba uMlangeni, someone who is very dearest to us," said Dr Dhlomo.

# DUT SIGNS HISTORIC AGREEMENT TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH FRANCE

NDUDUZO NDLOVU



Pictured: DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal Prof Thandwa Mthembu and Ambassador of France to South Africa, H.E. Mr. Christophe Farnaud, signing the MoU between DUT and the French Embassy in South Africa.

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) continues to strengthen cooperation with strategic international partners, as DUT signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the French Embassy in South Africa on 05 June 2018 at the Steve Biko Campus in Durban.

The two-year MoU, which is the first of its kind in South Africa, was officially signed by the Ambassador of France to South Africa, H.E. Mr. Christophe Farnaud and DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Thandwa Mthembu.

Prof Mthembu said this was an exciting day where the University signs this historic MOU with the French Embassy in South Africa.

“This is an opportunity which will expose so many of our students to the language, which will make them an asset in this continent because there are a lot of countries that use French, and of course many other parts of the world. We are delighted that the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment has taken the initiative to introduce the French



language as part of its curriculum. This will take Kwanele Kunene and many others very far, and it will be their choice where they want to make a contribution in this world,” said Prof Mthembu.

Ambassador Farnaud said DUT has been one of their key partners for a couple of years. “I’m glad that we have this young lady going to France to work on nanotechnology which is one of the technologies we need for the future. I’m also happy that we have French students here, so this is a lively cooperation going both ways. Today, not many people realise that the biggest number of French speakers is in Africa, and it is very good news that we can sign this MoU,” he said. DUT Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, Executive Dean, Prof Theo Andrew gave a rationale of what informed the signing of this agreement. He also shared some key statistical information about the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment. “We have just under 7000 students across two campuses with 10 departments. We have five statutory councils that actually accredit our programmes, and every single professional programme is currently accredited. We are also part of international accords, and all our qualifications are internationally recognised,” he said.

“We put all of this together and ask the question, in what space should DUT Engineering and the Built Environment play in and how it should look like in the next 20 or 30 years? For example, CTI prescribes professional standards for languages as compulsory for their programmes. The French speaking students need to get to a certain level of English speaking before their graduation,” he added.

Furthermore, he highlighted what informs their strategy within the faculty, was of course the DUT Strategic Plan and the context within South Africa but they were also looking at

it globally. “What is very clear is that the traditional disciplines within engineering are incapable of solving today’s problems, in other words many universities and programme structures are hoping to solve problems in the 4th industrial revolution, but they are structured and crafted in industry; I.O that’s simply what is happening around the world, but we think DUT has made the move, when I say DUT I mean the Engineering Faculty and by Engineering Faculty I mean DUT,” explained Prof Andrew.

DUT Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Engagement, Prof Sibusiso Moyo said this agreement will enhance DUT’s objective to expose students to best international practice and make them globally competitive citizens.

*“This is to ensure that our students’ skills are exportable, and that they can work anywhere in the world. We would like to applaud the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment for taking the initiative to introduce this programme. This is a first agreement of this nature within the Universities of Technology,”* she said.

To kick start this partnership, the French embassy has offered a scholarship to Kwanele Kunene, a South African PhD student from DUT for her six months training period at the University of Montpellier. This scholarship was granted to Kunene to enable her to implement the first steps of this research. DUT is already hosting two French students within the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment.

# KUNENE TO STUDY IN FRANCE FOR HER PHD

NDUDUZO NDLOVU

Kwanele Kunene believes that being an academic scientist has to some extent exposed her to everything that she was intrigued by while she was still considering career options after completing her matric, which includes being a writer, actress, teacher, interpreter, traveller, scientist and an artist.

“Now, looking from my present perspective, I realised that having become an academic scientist has allowed me to be all of the above. When I put together a scientific proposal, a paper, or a grant application, I am a writer. When I present talks at international conferences, I feel like an actress on stage. When I give lectures or seminars, I am a teacher. And then, travelling extensively and learning other languages have simply followed as a welcome by-product of all these activities,” said Kunene.

Kunene who will go to the prestigious Montpellier University in France later this year for a fellowship, which is linked to her PhD in Chemistry, said she is excited by this journey and the prospects it will bring for her. “I’m planning to leave South Africa this year in September and return in February 2019, I will spend six months at Montpellier University and six months at DUT for the period of three years. I have many different emotions. Credibility has been bestowed upon me, I feel energised, motivated and little bit nervous but I am also happy that years of sleepless nights have come to fruition, it took a while to sink in but then I enjoyed my moment of glory,” she said.

The Dannhauser-born Kunene said she always had an ambition to study abroad, and last year she travelled to Riga, Latvia to study her Masters. “My supervisor Prof K Bisetty sent the email to me last year (2017) in November. I started the application in December because it was my dream to study abroad. During the application it was very difficult, but I



Pictured: Kwanele Kunene will study in France for her PhD.

managed to overcome the difficulties together with the help of Cecile Garcon (International Relation and Social Cohesion Project Officer, Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment. I will study at both universities (Double degree, co-tutelle agreement) DUT and Montpellier University,” added Kunene.

Kunene said she is looking forward to learning the French language and understanding their cultural dynamics. “The experience will give me the upper hand when pursuing an international career and it will give my CV a competitive edge. Conducting my studies in France will definitely enhance the value of my doctoral degree as it will demonstrate potential to go an extra mile and be able to adapt to new environments and cultures,” she said.

Furthermore, she believes that this experience will unlock other opportunities for her career. "Since the selected University have a large number of international students intake, this will enable me to network in a multinational environment and establish contacts for the future collaborations. It is worth mentioning that prior to this application I have gained wonderful experience of establishing firm contact with senior researchers such as Prof Donalds Erts and Dr Roman Viter from University of Latvia and Dr Mikhael Bechelany from Montpellier University," said Kunene.

Kunene said she is grateful for having a good support structure throughout her academic journey, including her family and academic supervisors. "My family has been my pillar of strength by supporting me in anything that I need. The thing that hurt me the most is that my dad died before I could make him proud and that saddens me. My twin (Dasie Kunene) has the greatest impact on my academic journey, she encourages me for years to continue with my studies while working at Tongaat Hulett's as a mechanical engineer, she supports me. She puts her dreams on hold in order for me to pursue my dreams first.

My academic supervisors are (Prof K Bisetty, Dr S Kanchi and Dr M Sabela). They played the most significant role by supporting me through my first journey as the B-tech student up until now as the PhD student. They make a huge impact on encouraging people to empower themselves through education," she said.

She also urged other young aspiring academics to work hard in order to achieve their dreams, using a quote from renowned performer Lady Gaga, which says,:

*"Some women choose to follow men and some to choose to follow their dreams, if you are wondering which path to go, you must remember that your career will never wake up one day and tell you that it doesn't love you anymore".*



# DUT UNVEILS NEW HIGH-TECH BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES AT THE MIDLANDS CENTRE

WAHEEDA PETERS



Pictured: DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Thandwa Mthembu and DUT Council Chairperson cuts the ribbon at the official inauguration of the new buildings and facilities at DUT's Riverside and Indumiso campuses.

“Treat these facilities as it is yours, as it is truly yours,” these were the words echoed by the Durban University of Technology's (DUT's) Council Chairperson, Mr Wiseman Madinane, at the official inauguration of the new buildings and facilities at DUT's Riverside and Indumiso campuses on 22 June 2018.

DUT unveiled its new high-tech buildings, eco-friendly library and modern classroom facilities at both their Midlands campuses, which were a culmination of a major, refurbish process, which had occurred over the past five years, costing to the tune of below two Million Rand.

The event was well-attended by the DUT staff and student community and external stakeholders, who came along to witness the official opening and unveiling of plaques and went on a guided tour of the buildings and facilities.

Speaking at the event, Madinane added that the inauguration of the new buildings and facilities at DUT was the culmination of a vision and was very much encrypted in the DUT 2.0 strategic plan around student-centeredness and engagement. “I like the youthfulness of the buildings and I think they are very modern. Both projects were delivered on time and within budget, costing roughly below two million rands for both projects. I wish to come back in five years along the time and find that these facilities are still intact, clean and are not vandalised,” he said.

He also thanked the organisers of the event, DUT Council and the Director of the Midlands campuses, Dr Martin Mandew, for the leadership that he had provided during the construction period.

Vice-Chancellor and principal of DUT, Professor Thandwa Mthembu, also gave thanks to the former predecessor, Professor Ahmed Bawa, who was deeply involved in getting the funds together with the Council and had played a critical role in getting the University to where it is today. The general consensus from Pietermaritzburg students are that the new state of the art buildings and facilities made them feel like they are studying at a University.

Riverside Eco-tourism student, Muziwandile Nkosi, said the new venues make him feel the atmosphere of being in University which is what he had dreamt about since he was in High School. “The new venues are so comfortable that you can spend the whole day inside studying, learning and meeting for a group assignment. In the old venues so much time was spent on connecting a projector but in the new venues none of that happens.”

Public Relations student, Sanelisiwe Mboti, said: “The renovations that have been made at Riverside campus along with the new lecturer theatres that are now available for us to use – have made a significant contribution to our learning experience. As a student, walking into a room that is of such a great stand makes you feel important and eager to learn. Thank you to the DUT management team for this great initiative. You have really uplifted the quality of our education,” he said proudly.

The project was built in phases: The lecture venues were completed in June 2017. The library was then relocated to a temporary venue, whilst the new library and computer labs were constructed. The computer lab was completed in December 2017 and the library was completed in February 2018.

All three buildings were built simultaneously and were completed in December 2017 (Civil Engineering Block) and February 2018 (Library and lecture venues).

The new buildings unveiled at Riverside Campus consists of four, new raked 200 seater lecture venues with a lift and ablution facilities, extending the old library, creating three levels of library space. A mezzanine level was also added to the old hall to create computer labs, study space, social space and group rooms. The old test venue was converted into a computer lab.

At the Indumiso Campus, there is a new three-level eco-friendly Library, two 250 seater raked lecture venues.

A new Civil Engineering Block that consisted of new offices, labs, workshops and student spaces. There is an outdoor paving seating area and new parking areas.

Reiterating more on the new facilities, Manager - Physical Planning at DUT, Mr Len Rosenberg, said the building works of phase two is now complete and the University is currently waiting for the Department of Education to respond to DUT regarding funding for phase three. “This entails a building near the civil engineering building with five new lecture venues and this will mark the completion of the third phase. We (DUT) are also planning to build some new sports facilities later in the year, and we (DUT) are hoping to build a basketball, netball and two tennis courts. So in two years' time, Indumiso will be a brand new campus compared to what it was in the 80s,” he said excitedly.



# ENACTUS DUT STUDENTS ARE SOUTH AFRICAN CHAMPIONS!

WAHEEDA PETERS AND NDUDUZO NDLOVU



Pictured: The triumphant Enactus DUT after they were crowned Enactus South African Champions at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg recently.

Finally, a South African team is going to the World Cup! The Enactus team of students from the Durban University of Technology were crowned as the Enactus South African Champions at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg on 12 and 13 July 2018.

The DUT team also represented South Africa at the 2018 Enactus World Cup in the USA from 9 to 11 October 2018. This is a historic achievement for DUT, as it is the first time that South Africa was represented by a University of Technology in this prestigious international competition.

In total, 19 Enactus University teams from across South Africa competed at the Enactus South Africa National Competition two weeks ago; where they showcased their social entrepreneurship projects that are changing lives and

providing innovative solutions for a sustainable, positive impact in their communities. It also saw the inaugural Ideation Challenge, where nine teams participated.

The winning team from DUT presented on two projects. One focused on using waste soap and the second was an aquaponics farming project. The Enactus team from DUT worked around their theme for the year which is “recycling, reusing and re-purposing.”

After the realisation that the hotel industry is one of the biggest polluters of both land and water, Enactus DUT initiated a Soap Recycling Project. The beneficiaries of this project are victims of human trafficking and abuse, who are being rehabilitated at the Open Door Crisis Care Centre in Durban. To date, over 29 000 kg of soap has been collected and recycled and over 120 000 litres of liquid products including, dishwashing liquid, toilet bowl cleaner and multi-purpose cleaner – have been produced. Currently, Enactus DUT have recruited 28 sales agents for the distribution of these products.

Through their Aquaponics project, over 6 600 bottles have been collected from the greater Durban area through a primary schools competition for the construction of a green house. The project is addressing food security in the area of Noodsburg, generating an average of R100 per day and a monthly yield of up to 400 kg.

DUT Senior Director of Corporate Affairs, Mr Alan Khan said that the University was exceptionally proud of their Enactus team. Khan added, “Our students were brilliant and we are delighted that Enactus DUT are the 2018 South African champions. This victory further illustrates the outstanding academic and entrepreneurial spirit that our DUT students

possess. We want to also congratulate our colleague Ms Lana-Ann Brady and the rest of the staff from DUT, the Faculty of Management Sciences and their Executive Dean, Prof Rishi Balkaran, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Innovation and Engagement, Prof Sibusiso Moyo who supported our Enactus team.”

Ms Lana-Ann Brady said, “I would like to thank my Enactus team for all their hard work; the many nights without sleep and their unwavering commitment to the programme and their dedication to the project beneficiaries. When their peers were on holiday in December/January, they sought alternative accommodation at a private student residence and worked throughout their vacation period on their projects. Making sure that proposals are sent out timeously, mandatory documents required by sponsors and Enactus SA are sent on time. I am so blessed to work with such amazing students.”

“I am supposed to be the lecturer; but I am always learning so much from them. I also want to say thank you to Professors Balkaran and Moyo for their continued financial support and mentorship to Enactus; our sponsors – Ford, Barloworld and AIG – for believing in us and giving us the opportunity to bring our projects to fruition; and to Enactus SA for their support and encouragement,” added Brady.

Enactus South Africa Board Chairman and President, CHEP Africa, India, Middle East (AIME) & Automotive Europe, Mr Jurie Welman said:

*“This event gives all delegates, a unique opportunity to witness first-hand the tremendous results achieved by our Enactus students that have a head for business and a heart for the world. More exciting, is to see how our teams take on sustainable enterprising initiatives to address real socio-economic issues in our country. So, it is true to say that Enactus teams are changing the world!”*

The following students represented the winning team from DUT, Bafana Ngubeni, Katiso Sephelane, Aphiwe Magadla, Mthunzi Mapatwana, Nhlanhla Mthembu, Luvo Gugwana, Sanele Doncabe, Nokwanda Gamede, Sthembile Fakude, Siyethemba Dlamini, Obed Chauke, Kebone Rabelemane, Nyasha Busu, Percival Vezi, Sondelani Mwandla, Andile Gumede, Lebohang Phiri, Bongeka Dezi, Pumlile Tshunqekela, Lethiwe Mazibuko, Sthembile Ngwazi, Philani Nxumalo, Nosiphiwo Dlamini, Patience Mutsvairigwa and Cynthia Moyo. The Faculty Advisor was Ms Lana-Ann Brady.



# DUT STUDENTS DOMINATE VDJ YOUNG DESIGNER AWARD AGAIN!

NDUDUZO NDLOVU / GAMEPLAN MEDIA

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) Fashion and Textiles students once again dominated the Vodacom Durban July Young Designer Award presented by Durban Fashion Fair on 07 July 2018 at the Greyville Racecourse, as three DUT students clinched the top three spots for a second successive year.

The Greyville Racecourse played host to the thrilling climax of the gruelling three-month build-up to the Vodacom Durban July Young Designer Award and DUT's Georgina Brink walked away with the coveted award. Brink delved deep into her heritage and that of the nation to find her inspiration for her garment. "I took the theme "It Is Time" and used it to look back in time and connect with where we come from," the bubbly Brink said.

"I wanted to celebrate our diversity by bringing it all together. There are elements from my Dutch heritage as well as bits and pieces of the stylised paintings and ancient crafts incorporated in the design," said Brink. Winning a prestigious title like the Vodacom Durban July Young Designer Award is a major step in the right direction for Brink. "I am so excited that my name is going to get out there. To be able to socialise and network with some of the country's best designers as well as having them know my name is great! I am still over the moon with my award," added Brink.

For all of the student designers it has been a difficult and stressful time getting their concepts and theories into a physical garment with the panel of judges eventually deciding that the top prize should go to Brink, with fellow DUT students Andile Nsele and Nhlosenhle Cele finishing in second and third place respectively.



Pictured: The top three in the Vodacom Durban July Young Designer Award, presented by Durban Fashion Fair; (from left) second placed DUT student designer Andile Nsele with model Thandanani Majola, model Nayizolo Simelane, winning DUT student designer Georgina Brink and model Sarah Macleod in the third placed design of Nhlosenhle Cele at the 2018 Vodacom Durban July on Saturday, 7 July 2018.

Stakes were already in the favour of DUT as it had 9 students in the top 10 going into the final showdown. The following 9 DUT students made the top 10, Brink Georgina, Cele Nhlosenhle, Lange Chane, Lubisi Glacious, Memela Minenhle, Mkhwanazi Talent, Mngoma Mhlengi, Mokgope Malcolm and Nsele Andile.



# PROF BUX APPOINTED AS CHAIR OF BRICS-NETWORK UNIVERSITY SPECIALIST GROUP

NDUDUZO NDLOVU



Pictured: Professor Faizal Bux

The Durban University of Technology's Institute for Water and Wastewater Technology (IWWT), Director, Professor Faizal Bux says his appointment as the Chairperson of the BRICS Network University International Thematic Group on Water Resource and Pollution Treatment will position DUT at an international level.

“Serving as the Chair of the ITG will certainly have benefits which include profiling the Institute and the University at the international level. This will also facilitate collaboration and being part of an international network of scientists and practitioners all working towards a common goal. Access to resources and student and staff exchange is another major advantage,” said Prof Bux.

According to Prof Bux the BRICS Network University (BRICS-NU) is a network of BRICS member countries of higher education institutions, engaged in corporation of educational projects including postgraduate training programmes. BRICS Network University International Thematic Groups (ITGs) are structures within the BRICS-NU responsible for the coordination of work and research activities related to the six priority/knowledge areas which have been identified for BRICS cooperation.

“These knowledge areas are: Energy; Computer Science and Information Security; BRICS Studies; Ecology and Climate Change; Water Resources and Pollution Treatment; as well as Economics. The Durban University of Technology (DUT) has established a strong track record in water and wastewater treatment research and therefore was selected as the Lead organisation for South Africa, for the ITG Water Resources and Pollution Treatment,” explained Prof Bux.

Prof Bux gave more details on how his appointment to this prominent position came about. “As the leading Water specialist for South Africa, I was nominated during 2016, to represent South Africa on the ITG. At the annual BRICS-NU conference held at the University of Stellenbosch in July 2018, the ITG members from BRICS representative countries nominated me as Chair of the ITG for two years with the option of a second term,” he said.

He also outlined the objective of the International Thematic Group – Water Resources and Pollution Treatment, as well as his responsibilities as the Chairperson. “Our main purpose is to contribute to the development of water security concepts that will encompass issues on wastewater treatment and urbanisation, surface water pollution and basin level water resources analysis. As Chair, my responsibilities are to coordinate the activities of the ITG, as well as to enhance co-operation and exchanges among all member nations and universities, strengthening their visibility, impact and competitiveness amongst BRICS countries. Each country is represented by two universities on the ITG management committee, however other universities may also participate in the activities of the ITG,” said Prof Bux.

“At the recent, BRICS-NU conference, a roadmap was approved by the ITG members, outlining the activities planned for the next two years. The ITG seeks to develop joint initiatives in education and research through joint research projects, network implementation of collaborative Master and PhD programmes, short courses and seminars for students, conferences and joint publications,” he added.

Prof Bux said he is humbled and honoured by his appointment to this prominent position. “The position comes with a great degree of responsibility which I intend to fulfil to the best of my ability. I am honoured to be nominated to this position by my fellow BRICS ITG members to oversee the activities of five nations. I will strive to achieve the desired objectives of the ITG as the Chair,” he said.



# DUT IS ONE OF ONLY THREE INSTITUTIONS TO OFFER CLOUD COMPUTING SKILLS IN SOUTH AFRICA

NDUDUZO NDLOVU

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) continues to pioneer and integrate new innovative methods in order to enhance its teaching and learning processes.

DUT is now one of only three higher education institutions in South Africa to team up with the UK-based Amazon Web Services (AWS), to offer a specialised curriculum, dedicated to improving cloud computing-focused skills. DUT met all of the eligibility requirements prescribed by the AWS Academy for institutions to participate in this programme.

The curriculum is designed for higher education institutions to help students develop in-demand cloud computing skills and to prepare them for industry. According to ITWeb, introducing the academy locally makes South Africa the only African nation and one of the 32 countries worldwide, to offer the specialised cloud computing curriculum in its higher education institutions.

DUT Faculty of Accounting and Informatics Executive Dean, Professor Oludayo Olugbara said that DUT was delighted to be selected as one of only three institutions in South Africa to offer this curriculum, and that this is indicative, that DUT offers skills that are in short supply and in high demand. “This further justifies that our academic programmes at DUT are rated very highly by industry,” said Prof Olugbara.

Commenting on this landmark achievement, DUT Information Technology (IT), Senior Lecturer, Dr Progress Mtshali said that one of the primary goals of the programme was to enable IT students at DUT to complete their practicals using the cloud infrastructure, thereby enhancing their skills.



Pictured: Dr Progress Mtshali explaining how the programme will work in one of the computer labs at Ritson Campus where practicals will be undertaken by IT students.

He added that some of the modules that will be part of this programme included networking management, security management, database management, application integration, storage management, analytics and more. Currently it is offered to IT students but the objective is to broaden it to other programmes at DUT.

“Cloud-based skills are in high demand. The major benefit is that our IT students will be able to develop various skills that are in high demand, while completing their IT modules, before graduating from DUT. The resources offered by Amazon Web Services will also ensure that our students are using the latest technologies for their skills development,” said Dr Mtshali.

# PROF SIBIYA WINS DISTINGUISHED WOMAN SCIENTIST AWARD

NDUDUZO NDLOVU

The Executive Dean in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the Durban University of Technology (DUT), Professor Nokuthula Sibiya, has won the Distinguished Woman Scientist Award in the Human Sciences category at the 2018 South African Women in Science Awards (SAWiSA), which took place on 23 August 2018 at The Ranch Hotel in Polokwane.

Prof Sibiya, who is a C3-rated researcher, is the author of 40 peer reviewed publications, two books and 10 books chapters and she has presented her papers at national and international conferences. She has successfully supervised eight doctoral, 45 masters and 22 BTech students and Prof Sibiya is currently supervising a further eight doctoral and five master's students. When quizzed about what might have contributed to her receiving this prestigious award, Prof Sibiya said, "When I submitted my nomination for the award, I had to include a motivation of how my research innovation had enhanced inclusive growth and development of women in particular. Of the 53 postgraduate students I have successfully supervised, 47 are women. The majority of these women graduates (19) are currently appointed as lecturers in higher education at institutions and in colleges. One of my women PhD graduates holds a senior position in the National Department of Correctional Services."

Prof Sibiya said this recognition is also a huge motivation for her to continue with her contribution towards the research output at DUT. "Besides contributing a new body of knowledge through research, the resultant research output subsidy also contributes to the financial sustainability of our University. So, I take research seriously, as this is one of my core business as an academic at DUT," said Prof Sibiya.

"In order to build capacity, experienced researchers should strive to involve students in research projects and empower them with skills of writing for publication. As the Executive Dean, I have limited time to focus on research but I always



Pictured: Prof Nokuthula Sibiya (middle) alongside Minister of Science and Technology, Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane (left) and former First Lady Mrs Bongi Ngema-Zuma (right).

work with teams to maintain the momentum," she added. Prof Sibiya also extended her gratitude to DUT for affording her the opportunity to grow and develop as a researcher. "As women academics, we need to join hands and support each other in pushing the boundaries," she said.

This glamorous event hosted by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has been in existence since 2003. The awards recognise the achievements of women scientists and it provides motivation for the increased participation of women in research. This helps to profile women scientists and researchers and encourages and rewards the next generation of young women who are starting their careers as researchers and scientists. The 2018 edition of SAWiSA was held under the theme, "100 years of Mama Albertina Sisulu: Women united in moving South Africa forward".

# ABSA STRENGTHENS DUT PARTNERSHIP WITH R1.6 MILLION SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING

SANDILE LUKHOZI

With the aim of providing a bright future to South African youth, Absa Bank has donated R1.6 million in scholarships to help fund the Durban University of Technology (DUT) students.

Speaking during the cheque handover ceremony at the DUT Hotel School Conference Centre, Absa Provincial Managing Executive in KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga, Ronnie Mbatsane said it is through education that youth can realise their potential. “Absa has the ambition to be an effective force for good in society, ensuring that we become the cartels and drive growth in our society. Our scholarship fund is built to do just that,” said Mbatsane.

A recipient of a bursary himself during his tertiary days, Mbatsane said he understands the struggle of having no funds to pay tuition or having a proper accommodation to stay on. “If I had not received a bursary, I do not think that I would be actually standing here and talking to professors and people who run businesses. I am here sent by the bank, to solidify our partnership with DUT- further demonstrating our commitment to this institution,” said Mbatsane.

In his address, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of DUT, Professor Thandwa Mthembu expressed his excitement on the thriving partnership with Absa bank and urged the students to take full advantage of the scholarship. “I really want to thank Absa bank for helping to provide a better environment where hard working young people could better themselves. We really need shining stars and not young people who will pass their modules or programmes with 50%. We need students who will lead by example among other students,” said Prof Mthembu.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagement, Professor Sibusiso Moyo signified the importance of the scholarship to DUT students and emphasized the need for the partnership to continue beyond providing scholarships.



Pictured: Absa bank Provincial Managing Executive in KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga, Ronnie Mbatsane handing over a cheque of R1.6 million to the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of DUT, Professor Thandwa Mthembu.

“Some of the donations do not always need to be money, but it can also be opportunities for students to spend time on the actual job so that they can also have the work ethic and get the experience that is needed when they get their degrees,” she said. The cheque handover ceremony was also graced by the attendance of DUT Alumnus and Entrepreneur, Siyabonga Ndwalane, whose wireless Bluetooth speakers have taken the technology space by storm. Ndwalane said the students should treat the scholarship with respect and understand that it represents the society where they come from.

“This scholarship is for your mother and dad who could not receive an opportunity to study at a University, whoever in your society who has not received a chance to be here, you are representing them. This scholarship belongs to wherever you come from, use that scholarship perfectly, it will make a huge difference to you and lastly, make DUT proud of you,” he said. Since 2017, Absa bank has given R3.6 million to DUT and this fund has supported over 103 students within a space of two years.

# HONORARY DOCTORATE RECIPIENTS APPRECIATIVE OF THE HONOUR BESTOWED ON THEM

NDUDUZO NDLOVU

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) hosted a Gala Dinner in honour of the newly conferred honorary doctorates recipients, Dr Esther Mahlangu, Dr Johnny Clegg, Dr Siphon Mchunu and Dr Welcome “Bhodloza” Nzimande on 07 September 2018 at the Coastlands Umhlanga Hotel and Convention Centre.

The Gala Dinner was embraced by the presence of esteemed guests including the former DUT Chancellor, Judge Vuka Tshabalala, Chairperson of DUT Council, Mr Wiseman Madinane, DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Thandwa Mthembu, members of DUT Executive Management, DUT staff, recipients of the honorary doctorates and their friends and families. Also in attendance were other external stakeholders of the University.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagement, Professor Sibusiso Moyo said DUT is thrilled to have bestowed such honour in these respected pioneers in visual and performing arts. “I would like to urge our honorary doctorates recipients to collaborate with the University because it is through collaborative efforts that we can make a meaningful contribution towards the development of this country,” she said. She also advised DUT students to take a valuable lesson from these remarkable individuals that in everything that they do they must portray passion, authenticity, resilience and service.

Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Thandwa Mthembu said this has been an important day for the University, commenting that it has also evoked many childhood memories. “There is so much richness in our culture and heritage, which we tend to take very lightly, and I think it is our role as universities to preserve this richness in our heritage,” said Prof Mthembu.



Pictured: Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Thandwa Mthembu congratulates honorary doctorates recipients, Dr Siphon Mchunu, Dr Esther Mahlangu and Dr Welcome Nzimande during the Gala Dinner.

Prof Mthembu said Dr Johnny Clegg’s speech which was delivered earlier on during the graduation ceremony on his behalf by Dr Rene Smith, enlightened his understanding about the role of Arts. “His speech was full of history, and I think it should have been a lecture,” he said. He also urged that we should all pursue our passions in order to achieve more as a nation. “Mama Mahlangu has taken this country to the globe using her culture and heritage,” he added.

Dr Esther Mahlangu who was introduced by a Ndebele praise-singer, said she never thought she would receive such

an honour, and she is excited that she received this honour through using her god given talent and preserving her heritage. “Don't ever undervalue your talent and heritage because it has taken me all over the world, and everywhere I travel, I always receive good hospitality and respect for my work,” she said excitedly.

Dr Sipho Mchunu said he feels highly honoured and very grateful to DUT for the honour that it has bestowed on him. Dr Mchunu expressed his gratitude to his partner in Juluka band, Dr Johnny Clegg, who was also honoured with an honorary doctorate by DUT, but could not attend the ceremony. “I would like to thank him for the mutual respect that we had for each other. I didn't know English when we met and he also didn't know IsiZulu. My first trip overseas to Germany was with him. I would like to thank him for the special relationship that I had with him. Johnny Clegg refers to my children as his children, even when he buys gifts, he also buys for my children,” said Dr Mchunu. He added that this recognition is not just about him but it is also for his family.

*“My family should be grateful that I was honoured when I was still alive. I am also very happy that I was honoured while I'm still alive,”* he said.

Dr Welcome “Bhodloza” Nzimande thanked his family for their love, support and tolerance because without that he could have not achieved what he has achieved in his career. He also shared his vision for the establishment of a centre for traditional music development.

“The centre could help to explore the commercial potential of traditional music, and provide a platform where legends could impart knowledge and set global standards. The centre could be a catalyst and instigator for traditional music,” said Dr Nzimande.



# DUT SCOOPS TWO AWARDS AT THE PRESTIGIOUS NRF AWARDS

NDUDUZO NDLOVU



Pictured: Proud winners, Director of DUT's Institute for Water and Wastewater Technology (IWWT), Prof Faizal Bux, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagement, Professor Sibusiso Moyo and Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Thandwa Mthembu.

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) continues to be at the forefront of research capacity development, which is in line with its Strategic Plan's Strategic Focus Area 2: Building research and innovation for development.

This was affirmed as DUT received the National Research Foundation (NRF) Excelleration Award. Derived from the words "excellence" and "acceleration", the Excelleration Award acknowledges South African research institutions for achieving the most improved research performance over recent years as evaluated by independent parties, and measured against a selection of critical indicators.

This was announced at the NRF Awards gala event held on 26 September 2018 in Port Elizabeth. The NRF Awards were held under the theme – Advancing Science for Societal Benefit. In the same event the multi-award winning and internationally acclaimed Director of DUT's Institute for Water and Wastewater Technology (IWWT), Professor Faizal Bux was announced as the winner of the NRF Award under the category, Champion of Research Capacity Development and Transformation at South African Higher Education Institutions.

According to the NRF this award acknowledges an individual for their contributions to the transformation of South Africa's science community and landscape. The aim of this award is to encourage and promote this activity across the South African research community.

Prof Bux said he feels honoured to be recognised for his contribution in research, training and capacity development over the past 20 years. "This should serve as a source of inspiration for other researchers within DUT to build their research profiles and compete nationally and internationally. It is also very important that we should benchmark our research to international standards," said Prof Bux.

The NRF B-rated researcher believes the quality and calibre of post-graduate students that he has produced gave him the edge to win this coveted award. "Most of our PhD students have published in high impact journals, which are highly cited. The quality is measured through the number papers that they have published, and also the fact that their papers are highly cited by fellow researchers. The number of citations reflects the value of their papers, and several of our PhD students have comparatively high H-indexes, which is reflective of their recognition in science research," explained Prof Bux.



This is another remarkable addition to the long list of accolades and recognition that have been received by Prof Bux for his sterling contribution in research and academia. He was recently appointed as the Chairperson of the BRICS Network University International Thematic Group on Water Resource and Pollution Treatment.

Meanwhile, in September 2018, Prof Bux was also confirmed as the fellow for the prestigious International Water Association (IWA). Commenting on this esteemed recognition bestowed on Prof Bux, IWA Executive Director, Dr Kala Vairavamoorthy said this recognition to Prof Bux is based on his significant contributions to the industry, to IWA and on his commitment to professional contributions in the future.

*“I would like to personally take this opportunity to thank you for all your dedication and outstanding contributions to IWA and the water sector. I look forward to your continuous excellent contributions to IWA and to the international community as an IWA Fellow,”*  
said Dr Vairavamoorthy.

The IWA Fellow designation recognises sustained outstanding contribution to the profession. IWA Fellows are nominated based on their significant contributions as an engineer, educator, utility manager, regulator, research engineer, scientist, or as a technical leader.

DUT is proud of this exceptional achievement by Prof Bux and fellow DUT researchers, and this is a remarkable recognition for their tireless contribution towards research output and capacity development within DUT.

Appreciating the two NRF Excelleration awards, DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Thandwa Mthembu said, “The institutional award was a great and very pleasant surprise, indeed. Congratulations to each and everyone who made this possible.”



# DUT'S MULDER OBTAINS SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDY FASHION IN CHINA

WAHEEDA PETERS

The world is in the midst of a fourth industrial revolution, especially the fashion industry, which is now driven by a pattern of fashion innovations from 3D printing, artificial intelligence (AI) to advances in biomaterial. It is with this in mind that the Durban University of Technology's (DUT's) Leandi Mulder is passionate about her exciting eco-friendly designer range which aims to be sustainable through the fourth industrial revolution and beyond.

The dynamic fashion designer who specialises in sustainably designed womenswear, has not gone unnoticed, earning her the opportunity to obtain a scholarship to study at the prestigious Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology in China, for a year theory preparation, one year practical and six months to compile her thesis.

The recently graduated BTech Fashion student, who is already in China, is ecstatic to be given such an opportunity to learn and grow as a fashion designer on an international level. "Beijing University of Fashion Technology (BIFT) has been branching out on an international level to build relationships with various fashion universities around the world. DUT is one of these universities. BIFT and DUT are now aiming at encouraging students to pursue academic studies through offering scholarships at each University. BIFT has offered a Masters scholarship to me which covers all tuition, accommodation and a stipend each month," she added excitedly.

Mulder stressed that to qualify for the scholarship, she had to submit her academic history, portfolio and pass an HSK level 4 Mandarin. After reviewing her portfolio, she was lucky enough to be allowed to attend BIFT with a level 3 Mandarin. Her challenge to learn the Mandarin language in under four months was difficult. "At the beginning of 2018, I enrolled in



Pictured: Leandi Mulder (Photo by: Lynsey Anne Hughes).

lessons to learn the daunting language of Mandarin at the Confucius institute (CI). As an aspiring student at Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology, obtaining a HSK Level 3 Mandarin, was a prerequisite (The CI is equally one of the partners to facilitate the BIFT partnership). Thankfully, with the support of some incredible Mandarin lecturers, and a strong perseverance in my heart, I finally reached my goal. Not only did I pass the test, I passed with 78%, a score that I never deemed possible," she said proudly.

Mulder is no stranger to receiving awards and accolades having been privileged enough to be awarded the Daphne Strutt Memorial Prize, the 2016 Emma Smith Art Scholarship and obtained Cum Laude for her Diploma and BTech qualifications. Mulder has showcased her collections at SAFW Johannesburg, and AFI Cape Town Fashion Week. She has also participated in a fashion installation at the KZNSA gallery in May this year. Also, her designs were showcased as part of the fashion collective of the 12th Salon 58 soiree curated by the esteemed Jackie Burger.

For Mulder, to be given such an amazing opportunity to amalgamate her sustainable design ideas with the Chinese and Japanese influences, is a dream come true. As a DUT fashion alumni, she believes she was exposed to many opportunities and is grateful to DUT for giving her that platform and recognition to grow as a sustainable designer.

*“DUT has given me many opportunities to get me to the point to where I am now. The Emma Smith Scholarship was a great stepping-stone in encouraging me to focus on my career path. (I used the prize money to travel to Japan for an internship). The support and DUT standard of education, helped me to keep pushing myself to my highest limits,”* she said.



# DUT AND ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY DISCUSS WAYS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR COLLABORATION

DASARATH CHETTY AND NOXOLO MEMELA



Pictured: Seated- DCM Beryl Mphakathi, CM Siphon Nzuza, VC Prof Thandwa Mthembu, DVC (RIE) Prof Sibusiso Moyo  
Standing- Collin Pillay, DCM Siphon Cele, Nomfundo Phetha, Prof Dasarath Chetty, Dr David Mohale, DCM Phil Mashoko, Dr Mpilo Ngubane.

The Durban University of Technology and the eThekweni Municipality leadership recently held a meeting to discuss ways to improve collaboration and co-operation between the two entities.

The meeting which took place early this month was convened by eThekweni Municipal Manager, Mr Siphon Nzuza. This was part of Nzuza's CEO forum which is based on consultations aimed at improving customer service. DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Thandwa Mthembu pointed out that traffic, appropriate student transport, street lighting and safety were still key areas where Municipality's assistance would be welcomed. "Housing of students is also a challenge facing the University, which the eThekweni Municipality could assist with," said Prof Mthembu.

Prof Mthembu pointed to three broad areas viz. University precinct i.e. the geographical area and its implications, research and innovation and socio-economic development, all

of which constituted areas for continuous engagement and mutual benefit for DUT and the Municipality. Amongst other areas for research engagement, Prof Mthembu, mentioned the Oceans Economy, Waste Management and Environmental Greening.

Nzuza said that the eThekweni Municipality recognised DUT as an academic partner, as a key development actor, custodian of municipal services and an important contributor to city's rates-base. "The ultimate goal of this initiative is to mobilise top businesses to support the City Vision of becoming Africa's most liveable and caring city by 2030. Forging successful partnerships in city development is vital towards the formulation of practical, implementable plans towards realising this vision. Furthermore, for eThekweni to develop a prosperous, diverse and an employment creation economy as advocated in the Integrated Development Plan 2017-2021, mobilising and lobbying critical businesses is a befitting approach," said Nzuza.

# STUDENT DESIGNERS IMPRESS JUDGES WITH THEIR 'FINAL PAINTING' DESIGNS AT ANNUAL FASHION SHOW

WAHEEDA PETERS



Pictured: The Recognition Award joint winners, Nasreen Paruk and Victoria Boshoff for their thought-provoking designs.

An array of colour pattern fabrics, masks, meshed nets, plastic food packets, cone-head hats, blockworks and rubicube-inspired designs dominated the podium for the final day of the Durban University of Technology's Department of Fashion and Textiles Fashion Show, held on Friday, 5 October 2018 at the Fred Crookes Sports Centre on the Steve Biko Campus in Durban.

With the theme being “Art of Fashion”, the 25 design students were each given the opportunity to interpret, design and showcase their style of what fashion means to them through their individual interpretations, at the prestigious gala event.

According to the third year design lecturer and creative director of the event, Gideon, he added that for the 2018 theme “Art of Fashion”, students were given a blank canvas, for which the cut, fabric, proportion, detailing and composition were formed together to present a 'final painting'.

This year's panel of judges included the Holmes Bros, Roman Handt, Amanda Jaffar, Papama Ramogase, Santa Lupte and Clive Rundle. Prizes were sponsored and awarded to the best designers in the categories of Most Innovative Range, Best Range on Show, Most Commercial Range, Best Menswear Range, Best Technical Student, Merit Award and a Recognition Award.

Speaking at the event, Dr René Smith, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Design, welcomed everyone to the event as well as thanked all those who had played a pivotal role in putting the fashion show together. “A big thanks goes out to all the staff and students of the fashion department for their hard work and those who had worked tirelessly behind the scenes. You (students) inspire me and many people. Thank you for the inspiration, we (DUT) know, going forward, we have to procreate with you (students). We are also very thankful to all the judges for their expertise and input in judging the students,” she said.

Judge Papama Ramogase was very impressed with the talent from the students. “There is so much talent in Durban and South Africa as a whole. It was really nice to read up on the students’ inspirations for their designs and how they got to their final products. I think there is so much potential, and it was not easy as I thought it would be in terms of judging as there are so many winners. We (judges) created a new category because the talent is so immense. I am really looking forward to what will come out from DUT students for the future and fashion as a whole,” she added excitedly. Judge Santa Lupto from Truworths also felt that the ranges were of such a high standard and calibre. “The thing that impressed me the most was the innovation. I see a lot of potential and fabulous careers that are going to be launched. Truworths is a company that stands for innovation and its lovely to see students’ brands that we can relate to as star brands,” she said.

Besides the 25 students showcasing their ranges, Fikile Sokhulu and Zane Ngwenya also gave a glimpse of their stunning garments which they will be showcasing in Beijing. After much deliberation, judges announced the winners in various categories.

The Judges Award went to Lungile Dlamini and Victoria Boshoff. The winner for the TFG Award for Creative Culture was Lungile Dlamini. The Truworths Fashion Award went to Ayanda Hlophe. The Three Merit Awards were given to Kingdom Sibiyi, Fezokuhle Dimba and Hlengiwe Gumede. The Recognition Award had joint winners, Nasreen Paruk and Victoria Boshoff. The Best Technical Student was Anya Louw. The Roy Holmes Award for the Best Menswear Range was Katekani Moreku. The Most Commercial Range award went to Samkelisiwe Mbatha. The Most Innovative Range went to Anya Louw. The Best Range on Show went to Alec Sosibo. Both Paruk and Boshoff expressed their excitement on their joint win. Both added that they had put their heart and soul into creating their designs and were thrilled to share the moment together.

Giving the vote of thanks, Head of Department for Fashion and Textiles, Sunthra Moodley, stressed that all 25 students were winners for working really hard. She especially thanked her staff who worked tirelessly to ensure the students were on track and for putting together such a spectacular event. “Many of the students pushed the boundaries by incorporating fabric manipulation and fabric printing techniques into their designs and this is what has made it unique. Each range that has been produced is a reflection of their style and their character,” she said. Moodley also expressed her thanks to all sponsors, students and staff for making the show a great success.

# PROF DAVIDSON AIMS TO MAKE AFRICA THE MOST ELECTRIFIED CONTINENT IN THE WORLD

WAHEEDA PETERS

“Africa can leap-frog to become the most electrified continent in the world in one generation,” these were the words said by the esteemed Professor Innocent Ewean Davidson, who spoke at his inaugural lecture on Thursday, 25 October 2018, at the Mansfield Hall, DUT Ritson Campus.

Prof Davidson who heads up the Electrical Power Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, delivered his lecture on: *Energizing Africa's Emerging Economy – Through a Smart Integrated Electric Power Super-Grid*. He focused on showing the use of highly complex power system controllers to integrate African power grids into one super-grid that can accept large penetration of renewable powers, without compromising power quality, power flow, and power system stability. His presentation highlighted efforts in capacity building in electric power, smart grids and power system solutions and smart utility services. “We need to bridge a gap between academia and industry. We need to commit ourselves to industrialisation. Smart grids are going to monitor in Africa and consumers can increase their gains through this innovative solution to address energy and global issues,” he added.

He further added that it was vital to enhance research in the hope to expand to other universities and move South Africa beyond the borders nationally and internationally. “Through this proposed project, it is vital to enhance the quality of engineering and training through collaborative research with industry and academic staff secondment to industry. Faculties need more integration with industries for business incubators and to provide DUT with more income streams to prosecute its mission,” he said.

Speaking at the inaugural lecture Prof Sibusiso Moyo-DVC OF Research, Innovation and Engagement, congratulated him on



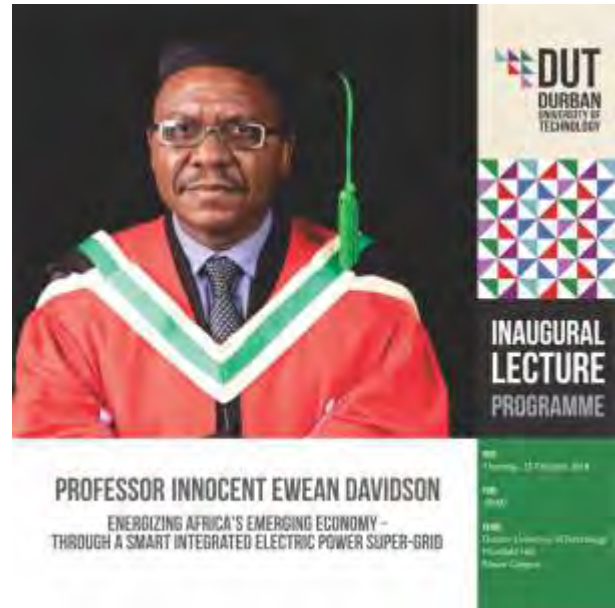
Pictured: Zwakele Ngubane, DUT's Director (Development and Alumni Relations), Prof Innocent Ewean Davidson and Prof Sibusiso Moyo, at the inaugural lecture.

his full professorship and said one of the greatest attributes he has is the ability to train students at all levels and emerging researchers to equip them with excellent skills so that they are also able to establish themselves as independent scientists who are able to contribute to all relevant sectors of society. “This is evidenced through his co-authorship with students who often appear as first authors. His contribution to training and ensuring that Africa, and in particular, South Africa becomes one of the most electrified places in the continent is significant as it talks to how Africa can actively be part of the 4th Industrial Revolution and ensure our graduates are adaptable, versatile and job creators, thus, contributing to the development of our cities,” she said.

Prof Theo Andrew, Executive Dean: Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, also congratulated Prof Davidson on becoming a full professor in the Department of Electrical Power Engineering. “He brings to the University a valuable network of resources. We look forward to him taking this academic enterprise into a new era,” he said.

### Biography

- Dr Innocent Ewean Davidson is a Full Professor and Chair, Department of Electrical Power Engineering.
- He is a Senior Member, Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, USA;
- Fellow, Institute of Engineering and Technology, United Kingdom;
- Fellow, South African Institute of Electrical Engineers;
- Chartered Engineer, United Kingdom;
- Registered Professional Engineer with Engineering Council of South Africa.





# PROF BHAGWAN SCOOPS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

NDUDUZO NDLOVU

The Durban University of Technology's (DUT's) Professor Raisuyah Bhagwan from the Department of Community Health Studies received an award for teaching excellence during the National Excellence in Teaching and Learning Awards held on 23 November 2018 at the Nelson Mandela University in Port Elizabeth.

Prof Bhagwan was recognised for her creative methodologies in teaching particularly the integration of indigenous knowledge, systems, narrative approaches that interweave stories of community into teaching and an emphasis on engaged approaches that recognises the importance of community spaces in learning more locally and contextually relevant knowledge.

Reacting to being announced as the winner, the elated Prof Bhagwan said, "The award was made to recognise excellent teaching practices at South African universities especially those academics who have an innovative philosophy and insights related to teaching excellence. This is a prestigious award for DUT, which has been recognised for its innovative teaching approaches but more importantly its emphasis on community engagement and teaching and learning." She also added that she has been invited by the Higher Education Learning and Teaching Association of Southern Africa (HELTASA) to facilitate workshops on community engagement at other universities in South Africa.

Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Thandwa Mthembu congratulated Prof Bhagwan on her remarkable achievement. "This is a great achievement that puts DUT on the national map in the area of teaching and learning. Congratulations to Prof Bhagwan on getting this toughly contested award," he said. "Even though we are, overwhelmingly and primarily, a teaching and learning University like all other universities in



Pictured: Professor Raisuyah Bhagwan.

South Africa including those that may call themselves 'research intensive', we often let research and innovation sound more important. I am glad that through Prof Bhagwan's example, we are being reminded again that teaching and learning are very important," added Prof Mthembu.

The National Excellence in Teaching and Learning Awards have been in place since 2009. The recognition of excellence in teaching and learning is a partnership between the Council on Higher Education (CHE) and the Higher Education Learning and Teaching Association of Southern Africa (HELTASA).

The awards aim to show support at a national level for excellence in teaching and learning in higher education. It also seeks to generate a cadre of academics who are identifiable and able to provide inspiration and leadership in teaching in their disciplines, institutions and regions; as well as to generate debate and public awareness about what constitutes teaching excellence in higher education.

# DUT'S MILLER CLINCHES FIRST PRIZE AT 2018 PLATAFRICA

NASIPHI GIGABA

Durban University of Technology's (DUT) Jewellery Design Bachelor of Technology (Btech) student, Callen Miller scooped first prize at the 19th annual PlatAfrica 2018 Jewellery Design and Manufacturing Competition held recently at the Theatre on the Track in Kyalami.

Miller took first place in the student/apprentice category with her neckpiece and ring titled, "Able to be". "I am still reeling with excitement. I am extremely proud of myself and I am so grateful for being given the opportunity from DUT to enter such a wonderful competition; I'm also so grateful to my wonderful lecturers that had helped and supported me through the process," she said ecstatically.

PlatAfrica has been taking place for the past two decades and has had a wide range of captivating themes with this year's 19th event held under the theme "Blessings of Love". This year, PlatAfrica celebrates the rise of female power while emphasising the rarity and strength of platinum.

"The piece I made is one that is intended to be given to a bride to wear on her wedding day; it is a statement pendant that aims to make the bride feel confident, proud and loved. I wanted this feeling to continue on a day to day basis, thus the central piece of the pendant can be detached and worn as a ring," she explained.

The competition presented in association with Platinum Guild International (PGI) India and Metal Concentrators, was open to students, apprentices and professional jewellers in South Africa. The winners of the competition will be travelling to India as part of Anglo American Platinum and PGI India's collaboration to participate in the PGI India's design outsourcing process for the prestigious Evara Platinum brand.



Pictured: Callen Miller with her prize.

Anglo American Platinum's CEO, Chris Griffith said: "Platinum benefits from a diversity of demand with jewellery being one three major demand segments for the metal. Platinum jewellery has become profoundly important to the well-being of the South African mining industry. As such, we welcome PGI's narrative to promote platinum as a love metal with unique characteristics and remain inspired to continue to invest in improving the design and manufacturing skills of the country's jewellers and students so they can compete effectively, both locally and internationally."

# DUT RECEIVES PRIZE FOR THE NRF EXCELLERATION AWARD

WAHEEDA PETERS



Pictured: Dr Ramika Bansi (IP Manager), Alan Khan (Senior Director: Division of Corporate Affairs), Sara Mitha (DUT Library), DUT's Prof Sibusiso Moyo (Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagement), Justine Cresswell (Head of Sub-Saharan Africa- Clarivate Analytics), Prof Carin Napier (Acting Director of Research and Postgraduate Support), Tracey October (Regional Manager Southern Africa- Clarivate Analytics), and Zulfaqar Dudhia (IT Specialist- Clarivate Analytics), at the handover ceremony.  
Photo credit: Randall Crisp (Life Sciences Regional Manager-Clarivate Analytics)

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) continues to be at the forefront of research capacity development, which is in line with its Strategic Plan's Strategic Focus Area 2: Building Research and Innovation for development in terms of its Research, Innovation and Engagement agenda.

This was affirmed as DUT recently received the National Research Foundation (NRF) Excelleration Award for South African Research Institutions 2018. Derived from the words "excellence" and "acceleration", the Excelleration Award acknowledges South African research institutions for achieving

the most improved research performance over recent years as evaluated by independent parties, and measured against a selection of critical indicators. The award prize is sponsored by Clarivate Analytics, the global leader in providing trusted insights and analytics to accelerate the pace of innovation. They have built some of the most trusted brands across the innovation lifecycle, including Web of Science, Cortellis, Derwent, CompuMark, MarkMonitor and Techstreet.

The official handover ceremony took place at the DUT's Steve Biko Campus, Wednesday, 21 November 2018. Representatives

Justine Cresswell (Head of Sub-Saharan Africa), Zulfaqar Dudhia (IT Specialist), Randall Crisp (Life Sciences Regional Manager), Tracey October (Regional Manager Southern Africa) from Clarivate Analytics, DUT's Prof Sibusiso Moyo (Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagement), Sara Mitha (DUT Library), Prof Carin Napier (Acting Director of Research and Postgraduate Support), Dr Ramika Bansi (IP Manager), and Alan Khan (Senior Director: Division of Corporate Affairs) were all present for the exciting handover ceremony.

Cresswell from Clarivate Analytics presented the award and prize of a 12 month complimentary subscription to the full Derwent Innovation experience, including the Derwent Innovation Index on the Web of Science and Derwent Innovation, a proprietary patent research application that provides access to globally trusted, curated patent intelligence and scientific literature. She congratulated Prof Moyo for DUT's outstanding win of this auspicious award and prize valued at 100 000 US dollars (almost R1.4 million).

Speaking at the handover, Prof Moyo thanked all the representatives from Clarivate Analytics for the amazing award and prize, which she added will be really put into good use. She also said that the win showed that DUT has the right environment for research to be conducted and that at the end of the day it's the people that actually do it. "This goes to show the efforts that the University prides itself in promoting research and innovation platforms where our researchers can collaborate, show case their work and network with other researchers," said Prof Moyo.

"Our research focus areas have really been working hard and our research is more applied, we have grown quite a lot, but we still have a long way to go. For me, what is sustainable is to have a solid pool within the University, there should be sufficient

capacity so that if some individuals do retire we don't go back to where we used to be. And for that we need a lot of post graduate students and programmes in place," she stressed.

Prof Napier shared her sentiments, also adding that the last two years at DUT has been very successful with a lot of awards and a lot of DUT researchers and top professors having won different awards across the University. "From a research point of view, there has been lot of research support and people who have done their PhDs had a lot of funding available, so for staff wanting to do research, the support is more than enough," she said.

Prof Moyo also added that now with the DUT Arts and Design faculty also having the prospect of getting acknowledged for their output. I think people now feel they can do more and develop more at DUT," she said excitedly. Cresswell from Clarivate Analytics added that their aim is to accelerate research and innovation and on that note, Clarivate Analytics has given DUT access to the full Derwent innovation suite, Derwent Innovation Index on the Web of Science and Derwent Innovation, and some workshops and training programmes.

Dudhia from Clarivate Analytics, also congratulated DUT for the outstanding win. "I think DUT has won the award due to decisions that were made and different strategies. I really like the concept of research focus areas. What we would like to introduce is our different processes and systems, so that at the proposal phase, one is looking at patterns as a source of literature. You will be pleased to know you will get all the patterns through the Web of Science.

I do most of the training and I would like to involve the library, post research and other departments at DUT and train and give researchers to learn the skill to pattern and what they should be looking for," he said.

# DUT LAUNCHES COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CLUSTER

DUT CE CLUSTER TEAM – PHUMZILE XULU AND LULEKA MKUZE



Photos: DUT Audio-visual Team

The Office of the DVC-Research Innovation and Engagement launched the Durban University of Technology (DUT) Community Engagement (CE) Cluster on Tuesday, 20 November 2018. The main function of the DUT Cluster is

to facilitate collaboration between DUT staff, students, as well as alumnus and the community for meaningful University-community engagements.

The event was held at the DUT Hotel School and was attended by more than 140 guests from institutions of higher learning, civic organisations, businesses, local government, DUT staff, and students.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagement Professor Sibusiso Moyo welcomed all guests and gave her opening remarks and stressed the importance of community engagement at DUT. She said that DUT is looking forward to strengthening the community engagement initiatives that are currently being undertaken by faculties and staff. "The success of community engagement is established through partnerships, we appreciate our existing partners and look forward to forging new ones as we engage and grow," she said.

The keynote speaker Prof Raisuyah Bhagwan from the DUT's Faculty of Health Sciences Department of Community Health Studies talked about how greatness is created through community engagement. She said that developing student preparedness was important by providing introductory lectures to students on engagement, including workshops on diversity and the asset-based approach, and familiarise students with theories of social change and transformation, as part of the teaching-learning process.

A three-person panel led a discussion on 'Engaged Scholarship in Practice' where each speaker shared their experiences with community engagement at DUT. Dr Rama Naidu from the Democracy Development Programme (DDP) said that it was important that the universities approach community engagement differently and that communities are involved in deciding on projects universities undertake.

Also, guest speaking at the event was Prof David McQuoid-Mason from the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies at UKZN. Prof

McQuoid-Mason shared his experience with community engagement which started back in 1976. He said that community engagement was not about the universities but about communities, as they are the ones that must lead the process.

During the launch, DUT's academic and professional staff members were given an opportunity to showcase community engagement projects that they are conducting for prizes. The top three projects showcased were awarded a monetary prize to the total value of R 30 000 (first prize R15 000, second prize R 10 000 and third prize R 5 000). A total of 18 projects were showcased and the following were the winners:

Third place went to Prof Poovendhree Reddy from the Faculty of Health Sciences, for her project titled: In response to community health challenges: Alleviating the burden of non-communicable diseases among residents in the Mkhizwana rural area in Cato Ridge, Durban.

Second place winner was Khaya Mchunu from the Faculty of Arts and Design, for his project: Sewing 4 Africa and Fashion and Textiles Community Engagement.

First place was clinched by Dr Knowledge Ngwane from the Faculty of Accounting and Informatics for his project titled: Preparing DUT and Durban Community for Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Khanyisile Msweli from the eThekweni Municipality gave her closing remarks and thanked DUT for the work that the University is doing to change the lives of poor people. She said that eThekweni Municipality is committed to working with DUT on community engagement projects and invited faculties to partner with her to work on projects in her area of Cato Manor.

# DUT LAUNCHES CHANCELLOR'S CLUB

NDUDUZO NDLOVU

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) hosted the launch of the Chancellor's Club on 19 November 2018 at DUT's Hotel School, Conference Centre on the Ritson Campus.

This high-powered and intimate event was attended by the captains of industry and other influential external stakeholders. It was also graced by the presence of DUT Chancellor, Ms Nonkululeko Nyembezi, Chairperson of Council, Mr Wiseman Madinane and Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Thandwa Mthembu as well as other members of the Executive Management and Council.

The Programme Director for the evening, Zwakele Ngubane (Director of Advancement and Alumni Relations at DUT) said the Chancellor's Club is a platform that seeks to create synergies between DUT and influential stakeholders, towards the advancement of DUT programmes and mandate.

DUT Chancellor, Ms Nonkululeko Nyembezi said the current economic climate requires universities to come up with innovate interventions to address funding shortages within the sector. "The demand for institutions like DUT to do something is very big because the society expects us to come up with solutions. We are inviting you (business people and stakeholders) to think about what we can do to address these challenges collectively," said Nyembezi. She added that the launch of this initiative marks the beginning of a long and ambitious journey, and she is confident that eventually it will yield tangible results. "Think of tonight as the first step that when we look back 10 or 20 years later, we will say that this is the day we began on this great journey because we have a responsibility to mould young people who will address challenges of the modern society," she said.

Addressing the invited guests, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Thandwa Mthembu said they chose to establish this



Pictured: DUT Chancellor, Ms Nonkululeko Nyembezi.

venture (Chancellor's Club) through the Chancellor (Ms Nonkululeko Nyembezi) because of her illustrious and influential network, established through her remarkable career as a businesswoman. "We believe that many people would like to follow in her path with DUT," he said.

Prof Mthembu said statistics indicate that government investment towards education between the year 2000 and 2015 decreased, while in the same period, the number of enrolments within the public higher education sector increased drastically, adding that this challenge requires universities to come up with interventions and establish partnerships. "We have you here because we believe that you have extensive networks that can assist us. You are the friends of DUT, and we appeal to you that you point us in the right direction within your networks," said Prof Mthembu.

Commenting on the mechanisms of the Chancellor's Club, Prof Mthembu said, "This brainchild (Chancellor's Club) will be a mobile one, it is mobile in a sense that we are going to host a series of such engagements across the country."

# DR THAKUR APPOINTED AS RESEARCH CHAIR OF DIGITISATION AT BANKSETA

NDUDUZO NDLOVU

The Durban University of Technology's (DUT's) Director and Head: Enterprise Development Unit and e-Skills CoLab Director, Dr Colin Thakur has added another accomplishment in his illustrious career following his recent appointment as the Research Chair in Digitisation for the Banking Sector Education and Training Authority (BANKSETA). His appointment is effective from October 2018 to October 2020.

The BANKSETA is mandated with skills development and transformation in the broader banking and microfinance sector and to support people development through partnerships, skills development, alleviating unemployment, creating a brighter future and enabling change.

The Chair in Digitisation currently falls under the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Engagement), Professor Sibusiso Moyo, who is pleased with the positive outcome and impact it will have on skills training for the current and future skills that the sector needs.

“The award of the Chair in Digitisation to DUT goes to attest the impact we as DUT are making in this area. It means that we are thinking about being part of the change we want to see especially around the fourth industrial revolution, the opportunities it brings with it and the skills that we require to ensure our citizens are able to cope and become versatile producers and users of technologies and knowledge generated. As a University of Technology we have to be in the forefront and lead in this area. A special congratulatory note to Dr Thakur for bringing this Chair to DUT,” said Prof Moyo.

The dynamic Dr Thakur said he is humbled and honoured by this appointment. “I thought when I took an administrative position it was going to stifle my academic career yet



Pictured: Dr Colin Thakur

strangely enough my academic output seems to have grown. I'm proud to do this wearing the DUT cap because I think it is important that we recognise the value and impact that DUT has in our lives from a reputation and prestige point of view,” said Dr Thakur.

Dr Thakur said his appointment was triggered by the meta-analysis (study) conducted by him and his team on the impact of the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) on the banking sector. “We know that we are moving between the digital world, biological world and the physical world, which we even term



the cyber-physical world. We constantly get excited and fearful over robotics. So the question that we have to ask ourselves is; given all the changes that are happening now, how does 4IR affect the banking sector in general?” he said.

“Let me put this into perspective, the biggest economy in Africa is Nigeria, but if you took all the banks in Nigeria and made them into one bank that bank will still be smaller than Standard Bank and First National Bank (FNB). So that gives you an idea of how well run our banking is, and how much reputation it has,” explained Dr Thakur.

Dr Thakur cautioned that while our banking sector is already in the 4IR and enjoys international recognition, it is however important to close the skills gap that exists between skills produced by our higher education system against the demands of the 4IR within the banking sector.

“The challenge that we have one of supply and demand, the universities are supposed to be supplying the skills required by the 4IR. The question that we need to ask ourselves as universities is; what have we done to change our output to meet the needs of the 4IR, and to meet the needs of the banking sector or any other sector? What have we done differently in the last 10 years to our curriculum that speaks to the 4IR?” he probed. Further the demand since is evolving dynamically – so we actually need a partnership rather than a supply-demand model.

Further advocating for a responsive education system, Dr Thakur said,

*“We are living in a converged, multidisciplinary world yet we teach almost in a silo through single disciplines. So what are we doing about interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary studies?”*

Dr Thakur is a renowned digital activist, and he holds a DTech in ICT through in which he has developed a multi-modal voting model and voter validation to leverage the ubiquity of mobile devices as a voting tool. He regularly delivers keynote addresses, provides expert commentary and writes for the media.

DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Thandwa Mthembu welcomed the BankSETA Research Chair: “This digitisation research must be viewed as a 'feed forward' project. It will take feedback from technology and feed this forward to inform our strategy within the skills sector. I also urge the team to innovatively examine the unbanked with sensitivity and urgency,” said Prof Mthembu.



# DUT CLINCHES BRONZE AWARD AT MACE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

NDUDUZO NDLOVU



Pictured: DUT Advancement and Alumni Relations, Director, Zwakele Ngubane with his team.

The Durban University of Technology's (DUT's) glossy alumni publication, DUTConnect, clinched the bronze award for Printed: External Magazines and Newsletters during the annual Marketing, Advancement and Communication in Education (MACE) Excellence Awards held on 29 November 2018 at Nitida Wine Farm in Cape Town.

The MACE Excellence Awards takes place annually as part of the MACE Congress and it recognises and celebrates excellence and the achievements of specialists and practitioners in marketing, advancement and communication in the higher-education sector.

DUT's Advancement and Alumni Relations Director, Zwakele Ngubane, whose department is responsible for publishing the DUTConnect expressed his excitement about this

achievement. "I'm very excited and feel proud because we are a very small team and for us to achieve this, knowing that we are competing with all the top universities in the country, made it a really special moment."

Ngubane said they are always trying to introduce new innovations to improve the publication and he believes that such improvements impressed adjudicators who were evaluating their entry. "In the past, the focus was mainly on featuring alumni in the world of work and their amazing achievements, which we still do. But we are now incorporating other elements such as what the DUT community is doing and its contribution to the sector," said Ngubane.

"The magazine issue that we submitted for these awards for instance also featured two articles on topical issue written by

our very own DUT experts. One of them was on listeriosis written by Dr Ngxongo (Head of the Nursing Department) and the other was on the water crisis written by the award-winning Prof Faizal Bux who heads up the DUT Institute for Water and Wastewater Technology. I think this may have contributed towards impressing the judges,” he added.

Ngubane added that this award has inspired them to push for the ultimate prize, which is the gold award, and to achieve that he said they will introduce a new strategic approach to the publication.

*“There are a few strategies we will employ going forward but one of them is that we are now going to identify key themes that are of local, national or international importance that are relevant to the higher education sector in some way, and then develop that particular magazine issue around the central theme,”*

he said.

“We also want to use the magazine to celebrate, not only our alumni, but our University and its staff and students through addressing and highlighting important relevant issues.

Our latest spring issue for instance, focused on entrepreneurship and what role DUT is playing in promoting and supporting entrepreneurship among students in particular. I believe that this approach will widen the appeal of the magazine and make it more valuable to read without isolating or neglecting our existing readers. The magazine should also be part of an integrated system of effective communication with our various stakeholders as DUT, so we will be working more closely with Corporate Affairs in this regard,” explained Ngubane.

MACE fulfils a leadership role in the higher education, TVET, and private education sectors within Southern Africa by adding value to practitioners in marketing, advancement and communication through high-quality development programmes, facilitating networking partnerships and transformation, as well as promoting best practices among these professions at its member institutions.



# PROF KUDANGA IS NOW A C2 RATED RESEARCHER

NDUDUZO NDLOVU

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) Department of Biotechnology and Food Technology's Associate Professor, Prof Tukayi Kudanga has been confirmed as a National Research Foundation (NRF) C2 rated researcher.

C-rated researchers are established researchers with a sustained recent record of productivity in the field and are recognised by their peers as having produced a body of quality work, the core of which has coherence and attests to ongoing engagement with the field and demonstrated the ability to conceptualise problems and apply research methods to investigating them.

The C2 rating is received by established researchers whose reviewers are firmly convinced that he or she is an established researcher as described. The researcher may, but need not to, enjoy some international recognition for the quality and impact of his or her recent research outputs.

According to Prof Kudanga his latest rating was confirmed in November 2018 by Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagement, Professor Sibusiso Moyo. Prof Kudanga outlined some of the key attributes of his research, which contributed towards his improved rating. "Research leadership, quality of research, publication in reputable high impact factor journals, productive local and international collaborations, ability to attract external funding, and international recognition through numerous citations and invitations to present plenary lectures at international conferences. In addition, being in applied research, the societal impact of my research is directly or indirectly obvious," he said.

His research focus areas include biocatalysis and enzymatic modification of biomaterials. "In biocatalysis, the focus is on the synthesis of potent high molecular weight antioxidants from



Pictured: Professor Tukayi Kudanga.

simpler less active building blocks," said Prof Kudanga. Prof Kudanga aspires to continue to improve as a scientist and attain a higher rating. "The ultimate aim is to be recognised by peers as a leading international scholar in my field," he said. He added that he is hopeful that his improved rating will enhance the reputation of DUT as an academic institution. "The number and ratings of NRF rated researchers is one of the yardsticks for judging the research profile of an academic institution," he added.

He also encouraged fellow researchers at DUT to strive for improved ratings. "The first thing is to set 'rating' as one of the key developmental goals. Hard work and focus on quality should be the main drivers, in my opinion," he said.

# DUTS MDLAKA AND PROF SHODE'S PRODUCTS GAIN POPULARITY AT CAIRO EXHIBITION

PROFESSOR FRANCIS SHODE AND WAHEEDA PETERS

Professor Francis Oluwole Shode and Master's Biotechnology student Sibongile Mdlaka from the Durban University of Technology's (DUT's) Department of Biotechnology and Food Technology, were given the prestigious opportunity to showcase their innovative products at the 5th International Cairo Exhibition of Innovation (Cairo Innovates) which took place in Cairo, Egypt from 8 to 9 November 2018. This opportunity of a life-time was made possible by the funding given by DUT's Research Department under the helm of Professor Sibusiso Moyo.

The exhibition was organised and hosted by the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT), Cairo, Egypt. The aims of the exhibition were to stimulate scientific innovation in Egypt and the region through creating a hub that excites people about science and research, connects innovators to enablers and key stakeholders, and allows local innovators to exhibit and commercialise their inventions.

The two-days event included sessions, workshops, competitions, panels, and inspiring stories of rising talents. It also included an exhibition of the latest inventions and innovations, an interactive "Makers Campus", and a "Junior Scientist" area with a special focus on stimulating the culture of innovation to increase the country's productivity and competitiveness, and reducing poverty and inequality.

Prof Shode was excited to showcase his innovative product made out of Karobonics which are nutraceuticals developed from *Ceratonia siliqua* (carob) grown in South Africa, and selected African staple foods such as cowpeas, soybeans, pigeon peas, sweet potatoes, ground nuts, and extracts from edible medicinal plants. They were developed to fight malnutrition and promote good health in infants, youths, and adults with chronic diseases. "Our first brand is SCALAS



Pictured: People showing keen interest in Prof Francis Shode's and Sibongile Mdlaka's innovative products at the Cairo exhibition.

Nutraceuticals (SN) for children. It was designed and formulated to fight malnutrition amongst under-privileged people. Scalas 1.0 to 1.3 are ready for commercialisation, and Scalas Plus (customised for sicklers) is under prototyping. We predicted a large market for all products in Africa," he said.

Many people visited Mdlaka's and Prof Shode's stand during the two-day exhibition. Both received a lot of attention and many expressions of interest on various aspects of their products and presentations. "The exhibition was concluded with a short ceremony where Mdlaka received a golden award for her innovative Vibra energy drink. It was a remarkable achievement by Mdlaka who shared a table with me during the exhibition. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Prof Moyo for her support and the University's sponsorship of my participation in the exhibition," he added.

Speaking about her win and experience, Mdlaka said people really loved her product which has some health benefits.

*"Vibra energy drink does not only have low sugar levels, but the form of sugar used as the ingredient is of great advantage as it is a monohydrate form of sugar. These sugars are not easily hydrolysed by our bodies especially for people with diabetics,"*

she said.

Mdlaka also said that she was pleasantly surprised as she was not expecting such popularity of her product knowing the fact that Arabic people are so skeptical, however, they loved her drink. "I would explain it to them, they would taste it and they would go and invite others to come meet me. I had a fantastic start and had fun as people frequently asked for pictures with me," she said excitedly.

She also said that both her and Prof Shode were visited by the South African Ambassador and he was really impressed with their products. "We were also visited by the evaluation panel who had evaluated our stands, products and asked questions about the project and products. We were also visited by the president of The Academy of Scientific Research and innovation Technology, who was also really impressed by what we were showcasing at the exhibition," she said. All in all, both Prof Shode and Mdlaka had an experience of a life-time in Cairo and are keen to see their products become commercialised, going forward.



## *Acknowledgements*

This publication was compiled by the Corporate Affairs Division of the Durban University of Technology.

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# DUT2018

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

