



The 2017 Colloquium attracted some international academics

## TLDC'S FLAGSHIP PROJECT

### TLDC hosts Teaching & Learning Colloquium, Vice-Chancellor's awards

MUT hosted its fifth annual Teaching & Learning Colloquium on 5-7 April 2017, culminating in the Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Awards on the final evening. What started off in 2013 as a small gathering of MUT staff to begin unpacking the concepts of teaching and learning in order to improve delivery, has become a fully-fledged academic conference where 35 papers and three posters were presented in 2017. Nine of these papers were presented by MUT staff, on the themes of E-learning, Graduate Attributes of a 21st Century Student, Integrated Interventions for Student Academic Support, and Student Success.

The general theme was "Re-imagining the 21st Century curriculum and learning environments: the quest for student success". Having extended beyond just MUT, the colloquium brings together academics and researchers from all over South Africa and beyond. It seeks to showcase innovations, generate debate, theorise policy and practice, and explore opportunities and challenges associated with teaching and learning in higher education. In doing so, it serves as a platform for disseminating higher education and institutional research findings from national and international guest speakers.

The last five years "have been busy and productive," said Dr Manyane Makua, Senior Director of the TLDC, which is responsible for organising the colloquium. Dr Makua said the colloquium is a "representation of the power of a vision".

The TLDC was able to attract several influential guest lecturers to the 2017 event, among them Prof Mark Hay from the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), who has vast international experience; Prof Dr Helen Bond from Howard University in Washington, DC; and Prof Mahlaphlapana Themane from the University of Limpopo.

The 2017 Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Awards winners were: Prof Logan Naidoo, from the Human Resource Management Department; Kevin Ramsarghey, from the Accounting Department; Dr Nkululeko Damoyi, from the Chemistry Department; and Adesoji Jaiyeola, from the Civil Engineering Department. All four won silver trophies, cash and other prizes. Vukile Mgjijima, from the Communication Department, won a bronze trophy and, like others, received cash, a tablet and other prizes. All winners attended the 2017 Higher Education Learning and Teaching Association of Southern Africa (HELTASA) conference held in November, with all expenses paid by the TLDC.

### Students included in Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Awards

The fifth annual Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Awards on 7 April 2017 had a new item: the Recognition of Student Academic Excellence Awards. Dr Manyane Makua, Senior Director: TLDC, said the reason for deciding to include the students in the awards was that students are a reflection of the excellent work done by lecturers. The two are a mirror image of each other.

Three students from the University's three faculties won cash and other prizes for their efforts. The inaugural winners were Phakamani Thwala, a second-year Building & Construction Management student; Fisanu Shandu, a second-year Marketing student; and Mbongeni Khoza, a second-year ICT student.



Executive management with award recipients and guest speakers



Ms Bongwiwe Nyide

## LIBRARY SERVICES

Ms Bongwiwe Nyide, Acting Senior Director

### 1 000 e-books now accessible from the MUT Library

MUT students and staff can now access more than 1 000 electronic books at a time, thanks to a gadget called an e-reader, by Kobo. Students can loan these gadgets from the library, just like the books, and can download the e-books and journal articles from anywhere. E-readers are expected to play a key role in facilitating the delivery of academic programmes via e-learning. Through them, students can access study materials of any size, without the need to make copies or print out materials. E-readers are portable, have a long battery life, and also have a dictionary.

The MUT Library had a number of other notable achievements in 2017. For instance:

- The MUT Library actively supported the Faculty of Natural Sciences' first Master's class and provided extensive training on library resources and referencing tools such as Mendeley and EndNote. This resulted in improved usage of library resources.
- The purchasing of and training on Turnitin by the TLDC and the Library was a major highlight. Turnitin is a software programme that aims to discourage plagiarism and encourage proper referencing. The Library ran a very successful introductory workshop which was attended by both students and staff. Some academic departments started using it actively soon afterwards.
- Online e-book ordering by lecturers has been effectively used since training was conducted during faculty board meetings. With this service, the Library has seen growth both in resources and e-book usage by students and staff. Library resources can now be more rapidly improved since e-books become available a day after processing the order.
- One-on-one training for students, lecturers and support staff has worked well as a marketing strategy for the Library in 2017. The Library continues to receive referrals, showing that it is being recognised as the hub of information and a first stop for research at MUT.



Nedbank Eyethu Foundation makes a donation to MUT Library

## THE CROWN JEWEL FOR THE LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

### Nedbank Eyethu Foundation launches MUT's digital environment

It was at a sectoral meeting that the Marcomms team's Mbali Mkhize, Senior Director: Marketing & Communication, and Zama Sishi, Director: Stakeholder Relations, met Tshego Bokaba, the Portfolio Manager for the Eyethu Community Trust at the Nedbank Foundation. "We have so many needs for our university, but the main focus is to ensure that our students move with the times and can sit behind the desk and make magic on the computer," they impressed on Ms Bokaba. "Just send me a proposal and the Board will decide," the latter replied.

An email to the now retired Library Services senior director, Lindiwe Ndaki, sealed the collaboration. Marcomms developed the project rationale and PR aspect while Library Services provided technical details for each of the MUT libraries. The Library's main aim was to create a digital environment for students, ensuring that students are able to undertake research in order to improve the MUT pass rate, and at a personal level to improve their technical expertise and social skills.

That proposal generated a R2.231 million grant from Nedbank. The grant helped MUT to replace computers purchased in 2007 and resulted in MUT acquiring 110 PCs, 140 laptops, six printers and a smart board. Over and above that, the grant resulted in MUT being able to offer two library vacancies to financially needy students. These students are being paid for out of this grant.

"As Nedbank Foundation, we need to ensure that we are a part of the development agenda across SA. Having taken a tour of all the library laboratories, I am happy that Nedbank has again made an impact on our people. It is heartening to see that within a year, Nedbank was able to deliver a superior digital environment for two MUT libraries. We are thus honoured to be associated with Nedbank and our relationship will grow from strength to strength," said Ms Bokaba.