

Faculty of Management Sciences



Staff members of the Faculty of Management Sciences, with guest speaker, Dr Fayth Riffin, seated

Faculty Research Day a springboard for success

Academics and other interested parties that attended the Faculty of Management Sciences' annual Research Day on 29-30 November 2018 must have felt that MUT's push to become a research-informed university had been given a big boost. Prof Sandiso Ngcobo from the faculty's Department of Communication said that presentations were of a high standard. "They were good - most of them were part of the Master's and PhD studies that colleagues are studying towards. But what was most important was that some of these presentations stand a good chance of finding their way into recognised journals. This will be a big plus for the University as it will not only attract some cash, but elevate MUT's research standing," said Prof Ngcobo, a well-published academic. Prof Ngcobo said the annual Research Day was a stepping stone to national and international forums, since it provides an opportunity for critique by fellow staff members. For instance, Thuli Duma (a lecturer in the Department of Human Resources and Management at MUT) has since submitted her paper on "Including parents in inclusive practice: supporting students with disabilities in higher education" to the Journal of Disability in Africa, and it has been sent for peer review.

Kedibone Phago, Research Professor in the Faculty of Management Sciences, said he received positive feedback from several staff members who took part in the Faculty Research Day. "They thought the event was a tremendous success. This was also because of our high level panellists, Prof Babatunde Agbola (Research Chair of Human Settlements), Prof Logan Naidoo and our invited guest, Dr Fayth Riffin from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Dr Riffin is a prolific scholar who lived up to expectations by sharing some epistemological issues relating to research paradigms for social science researchers. Other members of the panel spoke on other core academic issues like writing academic papers and pitfalls for Master's and doctoral students," concluded Prof Phago.

Altogether, 12 MUT staff members presented papers on the day. These included the Department of Accounting's Kevin Ramsarghey and Lungani Makhathini, who presented papers on "Educator capabilities for teaching accounting" and "Reflexive praxis and systemic factors in teaching and learning in the accounting discipline in South Africa" respectively.

Management Sciences post-doc makes waves in Canada

Dr Go Ogunela, a post-doctoral fellow based in the MUT Faculty of Management Sciences, is currently doing research on 'soft power' and regional hegemony in Africa. "I am interested in studying the ideational value of soft power and the foreign policy of regional powers in Africa (South Africa and Nigeria). My study is focused on engaging the theoretical limitation of regional power conceptualisation in its application for Africa's context and the need to consider the analytical depth of the soft power variable in such conceptualisation," he said.

Dr Ogunela is currently visiting the Centre for Global Studies at the University of Victoria, Canada, where he is working on two manuscripts with the following titles: "Courting Hegemonic Influence in Africa: Lessons from South Africa" and "Pastorpreneurs and Faith Based Organisations: Setting the Stage for Nigeria's Religious Soft Power". He has already presented a paper at the Centre's Weekly Global Talk Series on the topic: "The Ideational Value of Soft Power and the foreign policy of regional powers in Africa".

Teaching and Learning

7th Annual Teaching and Learning Colloquium recognises outstanding teachers and students



Awards winners with MUT Management and Chair of Council, Mr Morallane Morallane, standing, third from left

Eight Mangosuthu University of Technology academics and three students were awarded at this year's Teaching and Learning Development Centre's (TLDC) Teaching and Learning Colloquium, which started on 27 March 2019 and ended on 29 March 2019.

Winners were recognised in the following categories: Best Established Teacher: Gold Award, Best Established Teacher: Silver Award, Best Established Teacher: Bronze Award, Best Emerging Teacher Award and Best Students in the Faculties.

The Colloquium, which was themed Re-imagining the Purpose of Higher Education for Social Justice, saw guests from various institutions locally and in the United Kingdom present papers in various topics related to learning. The two keynote speakers; Prof Monwabisi Ralarala, Director of the Fundani Centre for Higher Education Development (CHED) at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology and Chairperson of the African Language Association of South Africa (ALASA), and Professor Rajani Naidoo, Director of the International Centre for Higher Education Management at the University of Bath in the United Kingdom; focus on language in knowledge development and dissemination and how universities contributed to social injustice respectively.

The Awards continued to scan the entire MUT academic field; the winners included three students, one per faculty. The students were judged based on their 2018 final examinations, which was their first year. The top achieving students per faculty were Ntando Khuzwayo, a second year Accounting & Public Finance student, Phila Dlamini excelled in Information Communication Technology (ICT), while Vuyiswa Mazibuko of Electrical engineering topped the engineering faculty.

All the students were awarded a sum of R7 500 each. This cash will be deposited into the MUT student accounts. Khuzwayo said she took all her tests seriously as she built towards the final examinations. "I also worked with groups. I would ask my classmates the questions on things I did not understand," said Khuzwayo.

The staff winners were as follows along with their prizes:

BEST ESTABLISHED TEACHERS: GOLD AWARD

Prof Sandiso Ngcobo - Department of Communication - Faculty of Management Sciences, and Thobeka Makhathini - Department of Chemical Engineering - Faculty of Engineering. Among the prizes the winners received were a gold award trophy, a certificate, R65 000 cheque, R50 000 Research grant, all-expense paid for attendance of 2019 HELTASA conference and a student assistant to alleviate their teaching load.

BEST ESTABLISHED TEACHERS: SILVER AWARD

Prof M Coopoosamy - Department of Nature Conservation, Bethel Mutanga - Department of Information and Communication Technology, both in the Faculty of Natural Sciences, and Dr Misery Sikwela - Department of Public Administration and Economics, Faculty of Management Sciences. These academics received a silver award trophy, a certificate, R40 000 cheque, R25 000 Research grant and an all-expense paid for attendance of 2019 HELTASA conference.

BEST ESTABLISHED TEACHER: BRONZE AWARD:

Ana Bigara - Department of Environmental Health, Faculty of Natural Sciences, and Lungani Makhathini, Department of Accounting and Law, Faculty of Management Sciences. They each received a bronze award trophy, R25 000 cheque, R15 000 Research Grant and an all-expense paid for attendance of 2019 HELTASA conference.

BEST EMERGING TEACHER AWARD:

Sithembile Nkosi - Department of nature Conservation, Faculty of Natural Sciences. Sithembile received an award trophy, a R30 000 cheque and an all-expense paid for attendance of 2019 HELTASA conference.