

Another NRF rating for MUT academic
 Prof Alfred Msomi, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, proudly made an announcement at the last Senate meeting of Dr Lungi Kwitshana's rating as a C3 researcher by the National Research Foundation (NRF). MUT is also proud to see one of its first alumnus receiving this recognition. Dr Kwitshana is registered as a Medical Scientist with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) and is also a member of the South African Immunology Society.



Dr Kwitshana, foreground, with Prof Msomi

Armed with the MUT National Diploma in Medical Technology (Clinical Pathology) she received in 1987, Dr Kwitshana has come back to MUT full-circle. She returned to MUT in 2015 as Head of Department of Biomedical Technology and her research output has grown proportionally. Dr Kwitshana has published 16 peer reviewed journal articles, two book chapters, a book and 22 conference abstracts.

Dr Kwitshana has been a Principal Investigator in several research projects that looked at the intersection between immunity, nutrition and co-infections with HIV, and attracted millions in grant funding. Dr Kwitshana also serves as a reviewer for Master's and PhD protocols.

Dr Kwitshana has a national and international academic footprint. She was appointed by the Minister of Health to serve two terms as a Board Member of the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC). Dr Kwitshana is an Editorial Board member of several international journals. She also serves as a reviewer of international journals. She is a recipient of the UK CIA Immunology Fellowship. Dr Kwitshana is a co-founder of the National Parasite Control. She has been appointed by the Director-General for Health to serve as a member of the NTD Forum. Dr Kwitshana has supervised to graduation Honours, Masters and PhD students. She serves as a reviewer for NRF, DHET and other national institutions.

In 2017, MUT recognised Dr Kwitshana during its Annual Research Awards evening with a Gold Award for the greatest number of publications and a Silver Award in recognition of a researcher with the highest funding in 2017. The NRF rating affirms years of hard work in research and research mentorship. Senate congratulated Dr Kwitshana for this great achievement.



The late Bongi Mkhize

Posthumous recognition - Mrs Bongi Mkhize (nee Masuku)

The late Mrs BT Mkhize organised the Agricultural Extension Summit in partnership with KZN Department of Agriculture, South African Sugar Association (SASA), University of Zululand and University of KwaZulu-Natal to focus on agriculture, extension, food security and the importance of the curriculum and professional registration by students. The summit was held at MUT's Faculty of Natural Sciences on 16 October 2018, with great success. Mrs Mkhize's spirit, energy and intellectual contribution will be sorely missed by all who knew and worked with her.

SUSTAIN

Growing Umlazi from the ground up: celebrating the schools that sow the seeds of greatness



Dr Dlamini, middle, receiving an award from Dr Malaza, left, and Mr Shandu

Dr Vusi Dlamini, principal of Ogwini High School - 35 years and counting

Hailed by many as a great teacher and leader, the principal of Ogwini Comprehensive High School, Dr Vusimuzi Dlamini, was honoured by MUT for his outstanding leadership during the Circle of Excellence Awards hosted at Umlazi Comtech High on 15 March 2019. Dr Dlamini has dedicated 35 wonderful years of his career to Ogwini, shaping the school into a giant international brand through his undying passion for choral music, sports, culture, and the ability to form partnerships with international institutions. At the COE Dr Dlamini received the coveted Felix Mshololo Brand Leadership Award, which recognises leadership and academic excellence by Umlazi Township principals.

Dr Dlamini encourages participation in cultural and choral competitions and Ogwini has certainly made a name for itself in the choral music space. Over the last five years the school has received 33 trophies for cultural competitions. Under Dr Dlamini's leadership the school also boasts a number of successful alumni who have a huge respect for him as a principal, a father and a mentor. He instils a sense of pride in the learners such that after completing their tertiary studies, they give back to the school by providing food for the Care Centre (where meals are provided for the less fortunate), buying uniforms, providing bursaries, and paying for renovations to the school's infrastructure.

Dr Dlamini is a hands-on principal with very strong networking abilities. His leadership style has enabled Ogwini to establish linkages with three schools in the UK. Perins Sports College has had a partnership with Ogwini for over ten years, dating back to a meeting of their two principals at a British Council Partnership Programme. Every two years, Perins learners and teachers come and give a two-day workshop on sporting codes to Ogwini learners. Twenty Ogwini learners and five management members have also visited Perins on a sports development programme. In addition, Dr Dlamini has also built partnerships through a chance meeting about 13 years ago with two schools in Scotland. Dr Dlamini met the principal of Saint James Gillespie High School, then networked with Gracemount High - resulting in another partnership that is in its twelfth year. In 2016 another school in Edinburgh joined the Gracemount group. The purpose of these exchanges and meetings is to see that the curriculum of Ogwini Comprehensive High School is an international one.

“Our school is authentic and lives by the mantra that 'the doors of teaching and culture shall be open to all’”.

Ogwini accepts all learners and proceeds with a teaching strategy to deal with differentiation. We were one of the few schools in Umlazi Township to have study in the afternoon. When I took over as principal, in consultation with the educators, we introduced afternoon study for grades 10, 11 and 12 until 5pm. The aim was to get learners used to self-study, where they engage with the textbooks and revise material learnt during the day. Another innovation that sets us apart was the introduction of nine subjects when the new syllabus was introduced after 1994. This innovation has assisted Ogwini learners to get the required points for tertiary education. It also opens up different career opportunities to learners,” said Dr Dlamini.

The Felix Mshololo Brand Leadership Award is a well-deserved honour for this exceptional leader who has played a major role in creating a great brand out of his school and has been key in maintaining relationships with the school's main stakeholders, its learners. He has not only elevated Ogwini Comprehensive High School but also Umlazi Township and South Africa as a whole.