

- Objective 4: To include more people in research activities. Increase the proportion of academic staff defined as "research active";
- Objective 5: To maximise research output;
- Objective 6: To increase National and International collaboration;
- Objective 7: To encourage the commercialisation of research output and collaboration with industry;
- Objective 8: Create an environment supportive of research; and
- Objective 9: To improve administrative facilitation for all researchers.

Research Niche Areas

The following research niche areas were approved by Senate:

- Algal Biotechnology;
- Ethno Botany;
- Food Security;
- Language, Academic Literacy and Communication;
- Radio Access Network and Rural Communication;
- Renewable Energy;
- Service Delivery Improvement in the Public Sector; and
- Waste Management.

Research Projects

The majority of research projects focus on the upgrading of postgraduate qualifications. Academic staff members are encouraged to build on existing projects and departmental strengths in order for Mangosuthu University of Technology to be recognised as a role player in research.

Research Awards

The Research Awards Evening aims to recognise staff members that perform research of a high quality. The research awards recognise the efforts of the researchers over a two-year period and the awards evening is held on an annual basis.

The Annual Research Awards Evening was hosted on the 20 November 2015 at Makaranga Garden Lodge. The guest speaker was Prof. F Van Niekerk (University of North West). The following staff members were recognised:

Most Productive Researcher

Dr RC Nnadozie

Senate Prize for the Researcher Who Published Most Accredited Journal Articles during the Past Two Years

Dr AK Tumba

Notable Achievements:

Prof. TC Davies

Prof. Davies was invited to write a review article on Urban Geology of African Megacities for the Journal of African Earth Sciences.

Mr Njabulo Gumede

He received the Thuthuka Grant for 2014/2015 and secured R500 000 TIA Seed Fund Grant.

Ms Xolile Mkhize

She obtained two fully-funded scholarships:

1. Wageningen University (Netherlands) for agri-business cluster development; and
2. University of Illinois for Soya bean processing in the National Soya Bean Research Laboratory.

She also secured the NRF KIC Grant worth R30 000.00.

Mr Boniso Ngwenya

1. He filed a South African patent for harnessing wave energy (2015/02913); and
2. He secured EDTEA funding worth R495 000.00.

Professor Logan Naidoo

Prof. Naidoo contributed two chapters in a DHET-recognised book titled Chatsworth: The Making of a South African Township.

Ms Ntombenhle Ndlovu

She selected as a semi-finalist for Global CLEANTECH Innovation Programme. She was also selected to present the innovation at the Innovation Summit 2015 held in Cape Town.

Mr Dave Pons

1. He secured EDTEA funding worth R450 000.00.
2. He secured South African Breweries funding towards travelling costs to London for his Ceiling-in-a-Can invention.

Mr TT Poswa

He received NRF KIC Grant worth R30 000.00.

Prof. Ewa Zawilska

She collaborated in a research programme with the South African Universities Radiometric Network (SAURAN).

Disclosures and Patents

The following is worth reporting:

1. Renewal of Patent No. 2012/09619, titled Ceiling-in-a-Can by **Mr D Pons**.
2. Provisional Patent Application No. 2014/03554, titled: System of Harnessing Wave Energy by **Mr BS Ngwenya**.