



# NUST BRIEF

## Best researchers of the year awarded

Dr Michael Mutingi, a lecturer in the Faculty of Engineering has once again been named the Institutional Established Researcher of the Year and as well as the Overall Established Researcher in his Faculty. Furthermore, Munyaradzi Mukesi, a lecturer in the Faculty of Health and Applied Sciences, was crowned Emerging Researcher of the Year, in addition to the Overall Established Researcher in his Faculty, at junior level.

The accolades, including the Teaching Excellence Awards, were handed over at the closing ceremony of the Institutional Research Week. Both Mutingi and Mukesi have previously received awards at this annual event.

Humbled by the gesture, Mutingi said: "I have received inspiration and support from my seniors and colleagues. I am grateful for this recognition because I am aware that there are a number of researchers at NUST who are capable of doing the same, or even more."

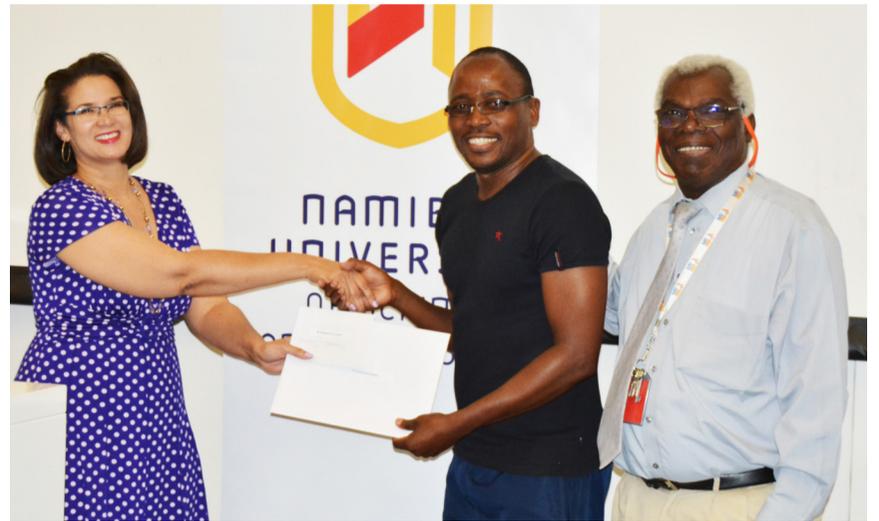
In recent years, Mutingi has also received Best Paper Awards at reputable international conferences, including the World Congress on Engineering and Computer Science in San Francisco, USA and the Industrial Engineering and Operations Management in Dubai, United Arab

Emirates.

Mukesi also expressed his gratitude. "I feel honoured to receive these awards, especially because this is the second year I am getting such recognition. My dream is not just to do research, but to actually make a difference in people's lives," he said.

Mukesi has published seven papers in peer-reviewed journals and one book chapter and is currently supervising eight Master's students working on various aspects of maternal and neonatal health.

The Institutional Research Week showcases research done by the University's academic staff during the year and is a platform that promotes a culture of research excellence among staff and students.



FROM LEFT: Dr Anicia Peters, Dean: Faculty of Computing and Informatics; Munyaradzi Mukesi, Lecturer: Faculty of Health and Applied Sciences, and Emerging Researcher of the Year; and Dr Harold Campbell, Dean: Faculty of Management Sciences.



FRONT ROW, FROM LEFT: Judy Grobler, Director: Library and Information Services; Dr Gert Günzel, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Finance and Administration, and Dr Reiner Kallenborn, President: International Association of University Libraries' (IATUL); and Gwendolyn Ebbett, Vice-President: IATUL, pictured with other delegates at the event.

### Emerging Technologies in Library Services

The 2nd International Association of University Libraries' (IATUL) Directors' Summit was held in Windhoek recently. The event offers a platform for discussion on challenges university libraries are facing and for the overall development of library services.

Dr Reiner Kallenborn, the President of IATUL, highlighted the association's focal areas which include promoting science and research in the field of library services. In the New Media Consortium Horizon Report of 2017, it was identified that due to collaborative cross-disciplinary research, libraries are now providing access to digital tools and establishing processes to store and disseminate data and research output. This enables the sharing and re-use of data.

Dr Gert Günzel, the NUST Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Finance and Administration, said: "We can all agree that technology empowers libraries to offer ubiquitous services. Although these technological advancements are very exciting, libraries should not lose sight of the customers they are serving, especially

in developing countries. Consider your customers' environment, digital literacy and access to digital tools, and know that you will have to continue offering physical as well as electronic resources, for a few years to come."

Judy Grobler, the NUST Director of Library and Information Services, said that it is gratifying to note that the programme of the Summit covered a wide range of topics, relating to the latest trends in the library services field. The Summit took place in a World Café format, to encourage discussion and the emergence of focus-driven solutions. The World Café methodology is a simple, effective and flexible format for hosting large-group dialogues. GIZ and EBSCO Information Services supported the event.

### Grade 7 learner becomes game developer

The Faculty of Computing and Informatics in collaboration with the Namibia Business Innovation Institute (NBII) and the Windhoek ACM SIGCHI Chapter, recently hosted the Game Design Challenge, also known as Gameathon.

13-year old, Berhane Wheeler, was happy to be part of the Game Design Challenge as he has a keen interest in designing and coding. He has previously designed a video game called 'The Heroes of Namibia' which focuses on helping children learn about Namibian historical figures. He started developing digital games after his mother introduced him to Scratch, a programming language, after which lecturers from the Faculty introduced him to virtual and augmented reality games.

He thanked the Faculty of Computing and Informatics for the help he received during his journey and encouraged other children to expand their horizons. Dr Peters, the Dean of the Faculty said: "We constantly receive requests from school learners all over the country to teach them programming. I was really happy to see how proficient this

learner is and he can now even teach other learners. I really commend the lecturers for being involved in community service projects."

During the Gameathon, four 3D digital games were developed which will further be created and tested by Master's degree students.

The two-day event aimed at bringing students and school learners together, to demonstrate their design and development skills while trying to tackle youth problems like career guidance and online victimisation through gamification.

The idea is that, as opposed to classical entertainment where you are an observer in the games, one can participate in the story as it unfolds, learning the basics of designing and enjoying an immersive experience.



FROM LEFT: Dr Anicia Peters, Dean: Faculty of Computing and Informatics; Berhane Wheeler, Grade 7 Learner; Helvi Itenge-Wheeler, Parent; and Ndamona Wheeler, Grade 3 Learner.