

## NUST Computing PhD student shines internationally

Lameck Amugongo, a PhD Student in Computer Science at NUST was selected as one of the 200 young researchers to attend the 5<sup>th</sup> Heidelberg Laureate Forum (HLF), in Germany.

The Forum is a scientific and informal platform to create links between 200 young researchers in mathematics and computer science from around the globe, as well as the laureates of prestigious prizes such as the Abel Prize, the ACM A.M. Turing Award, the Fields Medal and the Nevanlinna Prize.

Moreover, the forum aims to foster collaboration between the computing and math disciplines and the opportunity to raise awareness of their common threads and indispensable impacts. The 5<sup>th</sup> HLF will take place from 24 to 29 September 2017. All week long, scientific, social and outreach activities are developed in an informal atmosphere, so as to provide the young researchers with the unique opportunity to connect with other generations of mathematicians and computer scientists. Prior to HLF, Amugongo was selected to participate in the Dagstuhl Seminar, focusing on "Recent Trends in Knowledge Compilation," from 17-22 September 2017. The seminar is a series of perspective workshops that bring together the world's leading researchers, practitioners and

young talents to discuss their ideas.

Furthermore, Amugongo was selected as a Washington Mandela Fellow (WMF) 2017 on the Business and Entrepreneurship track. As a WMF fellow, he will spend six weeks at Skyline College in California where he will be attending intensive academic training on business and entrepreneurship.

He will have an opportunity to visit some of the most innovative companies in Silicon Valley such as Google, Facebook and Intel.

"I am very grateful for this awesome opportunity, and I am looking forward to an amazing experience and I hope to create long-lasting networks," Amugongo said.

"The notion that a Namibian researcher will only be internationally competitive if they are studying abroad is misleading. NUST has world-class professors who can provide good guidance to enable young researchers to compete with the best of the best," he added.

Amugongo thanked his colleagues for their support, his Master's degree supervisor, Prof Juergen Sieck, for giving him the opportunity to



Lameck Amugongo, Computer Science PhD student: NUST.

undertake research studies in Germany from 2015 to 2016. He also expressed his gratitude to the Faculty of Computing and Informatics

(FCI) Associate Dean, Professor Muyingi, for his guidance and support, and the Dean, Dr Anicia Peters, for her steadfast mentorship.



From left: Miguel Sobejano, FABlab; Sara Hamukwaya, FABlab; Bjorn Wiedow, Deputy Director: FABlab; Khaya Mchunu, student: DUT; Julia Ndjene, student: NUST; Xoliswa Ndjovela, student: DUT; Stefanie Garises, student: NUST; Deborah Ajibola, student: NUST; Kiara Gounder, student: DUT; Jessica Shuttleworth, student: DUT, and Michael Nauta, student: NUST, pictured at FABlab in Windhoek.

### Promoting multi-disciplinary skills amongst women

NUST's Fabrication Laboratory (FABlab), launched a multi-disciplinary pilot student exchange programme in partnership with the Durban University of Science and Technology (DUT). The project focuses on female students, with the objective to uplift women in fields that are commonly male-dominated.

The programme engages students in the Computing and Informatics as well as Engineering Faculties at NUST that collaborate on joint product development with students from the Art and Design Faculty at DUT.

The pilot programme requires students, three from each institution, to spend two weeks working on innovative projects such as developing their own micro-controller space circuit boards. FABlab has already hosted the students for the first part of the two-week period, where the team designed electronic products. The second part will be spent at DUT at the end of June, where the next phase of the product development will take place. The finished products will be exhibited at the annual DUT DigiFest in November.

The DUT DigiFest is a platform that showcases a series of live art activations, exhibitions, innovations, panel discussions, workshops, music, theatre, poetry, amongst others.

"We need to boost the innovative mindset and produce tangible output. The future of the workforce, and of new-age entrepreneurs, will be that of fusionists and hybrid operators," said Kirstin Wiedow, the Director of FABlab. The pilot will continue until November 2017 and if the outcome is favourable, a new phase will be launched in 2018.

Teams will be given the opportunity to collaborate with the Oulu University of Applied Sciences (OAMK) Labs in Finland, and the final products will be showcased at the renowned International Symposium on Electronic Art in Durban next year.

## Transport and Logistics Society explores Durban waters

A group of 63 students from the Faculty of Management Sciences visited the Maritime School of Excellence (MSOE) in Durban, South Africa. The excursion was sponsored by Namibia Breweries Limited (NBL) and the Namibian-German Centre for Logistics (NGCL).

With the aim to get exposure to the market of logistics on a global scale, the group led by Dr Fanny Saruchera, a senior lecturer and Eugene Madejski, associate professor from the Faculty, headed to Durban.

The city is known for having one of the busiest ports in the SADC region.

During the visit, the students were given tours via ship simulators and they further received detailed information about the courses offered at MSOE.

The School specialises in teaching programmes ranging from machine handling to basic management. Some of the workers at the port of Walvis Bay have been trained by MSOE staff.

Eliud Hatutala, the Society's president and third-

year student, said the trip inspired the group to pursue careers in Maritime Transport. "We were also taken on a boat ride around the entire Durban port via this vessel. We experienced unforgettable views such as large shipping vessels docking, off-loading, and heading out," he added.

The students ended their visit by touring the Maritime Museum where they were given presentations on history about whales and their contributions to the maritime sector.

"There are a lot of options in working in this type of industry in Namibia, especially now that the Namibian Port Authority is being expanded. This increases our chances of securing employment in the field," Hatatula concluded.



Thomas Mwahenukange, Vice President, Transport and Logistics Society: NUST; Captain Moggamat Plaitjies: Maritime School of Excellence, and Eliud Hatutala, President, Transport and Logistics Society, on board the "Isiponono" vessel in Durban, South Africa.

*NUST wishes students all the best with their examinations.*